

MARGOT NORMAN

Must parents teach the three Rs?

Breeding ignorance, page 17



SILVIO BERLUSCONI

What drives Italy's would-be premier?

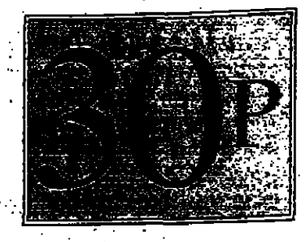
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Lightweight with a heavy burden

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THE TIMES

No. 64,909 WEDNESDAY MARCH 23 1994

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN DEPOSIT DIVISION

Deadlock in Brussels voting row

Delors will not sway me, says Major

BY PHILIP WEBSTER IN LONDON AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

JOHN Major widened Britain's breach with Europe yesterday when crisis talks in Brussels failed to break the deadlock on voting rights. The dispute looks as though it might run on for months.

In a move that delighted the Tory Euro-sceptics and worried the pro-Europeans, the Prime Minister seemed ready to use his reluctance to budge as a card in the forthcoming European parliamentary elections. He said that he would not be swayed by "phoney threats" to delay plans to enlarge the European Union to 16 members.

Jacques Delors, the EU president, said however that Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, had "defended brilliantly a case which is impossible to defend".

In the Commons only minutes after the Brussels foreign ministers' meeting broke up without agreement, Mr Major criticised two of Britain's "inflexible and doctrinaire" partners and his political opponents at home who would "sign away our votes and sign away our money".

Kenneth Clarke hardened the Government's line in a fresh twist by suggesting that the whole issue of voting rights should be deferred until 1996 and separated from the the enlargement process.

Mr Major's harsh language surprised MPs across his party; it contrasted sharply with the more emollient words of Mr Hurd earlier in the dispute. Although his remarks were clearly designed to bolster Mr Hurd in the continuing talks on a change in the Union's voting structure, the Prime Minister was also playing the patriotic card for elections that will be vital to his future.

He promised to "fight Britain's corner hard" and then derided John Smith as "Monsieur Oui, the poodle of Brussels". Euro-enthusiast Tories who have decided privately not to rock the boat while Mr Hurd is negotiating were anxious nevertheless about Mr Major's tone. One said that he was clearly at his "wits' end" in his attempt to get a deal in Europe that prevented a split in his party.

Cheered on loudly by MPs, Mr Major said: "We aren't going to do what the Labour Party do, which is to say 'yes' to everything that comes out of Europe without any criticial examination. We will not be moved by phoney threats to delay enlargement. There is ample time to complete the enlargement process. If there is delay, it will be because certain other member states, two in particular, have taken an inflexible and doctrinaire line."

Mr Major's EU targets were identified later as The Netherlands and Belgium; officials said they had been opposed to compromise.

Britain, however, was under fire from all sides last night as the Brussels meeting failed to bridge the gap between Britain, Spain and their ten partners. Diplomats from Belgium and The Netherlands said that Britain should be faced with a "take it or leave it" ultimatum and offered no further movement.

Willy Claes, Belgium's Foreign Minister, reacted to Mr Major's attack by saying that majority voting was fundamental to "European construction". He added: "The British Prime Minister knows very well that the Benelux countries are in favour of European federalism. We have the ambition to deepen European construction. Europe is more for us than a free trade zone. It must speak with one voice."

German officials speculated that a decision might have to wait until after the European Parliament elections in early June, a delay that would force the entry of up to four new countries to the Union to be postponed beyond the scheduled date of January next year.

Mr Hurd, asked after the meeting if he was blocking agreement because Britain was nervous of reaction at Westminster, said "we all have parliaments, and we all know we cannot neglect the opinion of our parliaments".

Britain and Spain refused to abandon their insistence that the size of the EU's blocking minority should stay unchanged if new states enter, fearing being overruled more often. Most of the ten states in favour of increasing the size of the blocking minority by means ofthe automatic formula in use since the EU's foundation hardened their resistance to any concessions.

Tom Kitts, the Irish junior foreign affairs minister, said that the fruitless meeting had been a terrible day for Europe. Britain, he added, had "backed itself into a corner and, while we want to help them out, it is up to them to get themselves out."

No deal emerged yesterday and the dispute will rumble on at least until a foreign ministers' meeting this weekend in Greece. Senior EU officials continued working on possible compromises last night as the ministers dispersed.

Greece, which holds the EU presidency, said that its ministers would try to broker a deal over the next few days. "I cannot accept the nightmare of a decision not being taken this weekend," Theodoros Pangalos, Greece's European Affairs Minister, said. "We would be in a lot of trouble."

Peter Riddell, page 9
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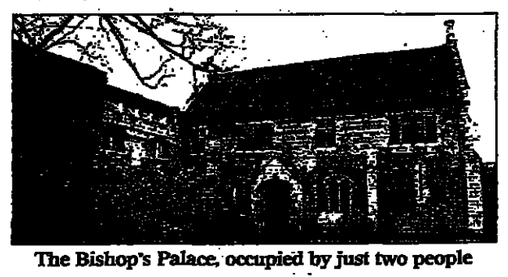
PETER RIDDELL

'If John Major is forced out of Downing Street later this year, yesterday will be seen as a key date in his decline and fall. His decision to play the Euro-sceptic card will do him and the Tory Party no good'..... Page 9



HELEN DRAKE

The Bishop of Peterborough in the spacious home he hopes to leave soon



The Bishop's Palace, occupied by just two people

Thrifty Bishop wants a more humble abode

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Church of England bishop plans to move out of his 800-year-old palace and into a smaller and cheaper house to help efforts to overcome the Church's financial difficulties.

The Right Rev Bill Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough from 1984, said: "Although abbots and bishops have lived in the palace for 800 years, it is not proper to ask parishes and clergy to give up things if I still live in that expensive house."

The Bishop's decision follows plans by the Church Commissioners to halve the £62.7 million annual contribution to clergy stipends over the next three years. The commissioners fund bishops' houses, and are reviewing spending on them.

Bishop Westwood announced his decision in this week's edition of the *Cross Keys*, the diocesan newsletter. He said 26 proposals for cuts in diocesan spending have been put to officials. "Some are long-term, such as the intention that the Bishops of Peterborough, after 800 years, shall leave the Palace."

The commissioners' grant to Peterborough will be cut by £211,000 next year, and by £362,000 the following year.

Bishop Westwood said yesterday: "I can't ask parishes to do without vicars, or vicars to subsist on low wages, if at the same time we could probably pay totally for two vicars from the cost of the upkeep of this house. Last year we had a maintenance bill of £60,000. We can't go on. When we had the Church Commissioners' money it was all right, but after a period of time the rightness wears off. Parts of this house stand from the 11th century. The rooms are enormous and are never warm. The vast majority of bishops now live in modern houses."

Many of the grander episcopal residences date from the Middle Ages, when wealthy prince bishops toured the country with retinues. The Prince Bishop of Durham even had his own army. Now, only seven of the 43 diocesan bishops, besides Bishop Westwood, live in palaces or castles.

The most lavish include Auckland Castle, home of Dr David Jenkins, the Bishop of Durham, who is to retire this summer, and Lambeth Palace, London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey. The Right Rev Ian Harland, Bishop of Carlisle, lives in Rose Castle, Carlisle; the Right Rev James Thompson, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, lives in a palace surrounded by a moat in Wells, Somerset. The Right Rev Hewlett Thompson, the Bishop of Exeter, lives in a palace in Exeter which also serves as the diocesan office. The Bishop

Continued on page 2, col 8

VE Day to bring German troops to London streets

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GERMAN troops could be on the streets of London next spring, 50 years after Allied forces ended Hitler's dreams of conquest. The prospect was raised by John Major last night when he disclosed that, in contrast to this June's D-Day celebrations, Germany had been invited to help commemorate VE Day on May 7, 1995.

The Prime Minister said that the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the war in Europe would be marked by three main events: a service at St Paul's Cathedral, a parade in central London, and a lunch or dinner for visiting international leaders. Whitehall officials emphasised that planning was at an early stage, but said the parade would probably include German as well as British and Allied soldiers and ex-servicemen.

Among those expected to join the Queen and the Prime Minister for the three main events are the leaders of the two Axis powers, Germany and Italy, President Clinton, President Yeltsin and President Mitterrand. Mr Major said that the reunion of wartime friends and enemies would be marked by the theme of reconciliation.

In a Commons written reply, he said: "The commemoration in Britain on May 7, 1995, of the end of the Second World War will be the occasion to celebrate the 50 years of peace and reconciliation we have enjoyed since 1945. We very much hope Germany will play a full part and will be represented at a high level."

The spectacle of old enemies marching side by side should be compensation for Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who was angered by Germany's exclusion from the D-Day celebrations, which will bring an invasion force to the Normandy coast even bigger than that of 1944. About 100,000 veterans and millions of visitors are expected to throng the battlefields.

Herr Kohl pressed for German participation as a symbol of reconciliation. After some agonising, particularly in France, however, his overtures were rebuffed. Veteran and resistance organisations could not stomach the idea.

An Anglo-German summit meeting in London at the end of next month will provide an opportunity for Mr Major and Herr Kohl and their officials to discuss the parade and the other events.

Mr Major also announced that celebrations would be held throughout Britain "designed to build on the theme of reconciliation". The Foreign Office said church services were an obvious possibility, but that local people would be encouraged to put forward their own ideas.

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Queen's painting stolen at palace

BY ALAN HAMILTON, JOHN SHAW AND STEWART TENDLER

AN URGENT inventory of Buckingham Palace's art treasures was under way yesterday as police questioned a former Palace footman about the theft of a £100,000 Dutch Old Master.

The Palace said that the painting, 9 in by 7½ in, small enough to be slipped into a pocket, had been stolen at some time since November from a guest bedroom. Scotland Yard's serious crime branch arrested the 22-year-old man in East Sussex.

The theft is the second involving the Royal Family in a month. Three weeks ago a burglar scaled scaffolding outside St James's Palace and stole jewellery from the Prince of Wales.

The theft of the painting, *An Elderly Couple in an Arbour*, by Adriaen Van Ostade was discovered when it was presented at Phillips, the London auctioneers, earlier this month in good faith by a dealer well known to the firm.

Brian Koetser, head of Phillips' Old Masters department, said yesterday: "I was very surprised when the dealer left it, because it was a very beautiful little picture, not the type of thing you expect to come in over the counter.

"Bells started to ring a little, but unfortunately I had to go abroad. When I got back I confirmed to myself that this was from the Royal Collection. I checked it out and spoke to Christopher Lloyd, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures."

Neither Phillips nor the Palace could recall a previous theft from the Royal Collection, which comprises more than 5,000 oils and 10,000 watercolours, in Britain's palaces or on loan to galleries, as well as a priceless collection of many hundreds of drawings by Leonardo, Raphael, Holbein and others.

Visitors to Buckingham Palace when it opened to the public for the first time last year saw priceless Rembrandts, Van Dycks, Rubens, Gainsboroughs and Winterhalters hanging in profusion in the state apartments.

Charles on TV, page 7



Detail of the painting *An Elderly Couple in an Arbour*

Sardines clue for mountain rescuers

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

RESCUERS searching for five men missing on Mount Kinabula in Borneo for three weeks yesterday reached the bottom of the mile-deep Low's Gully, and found two tins of sardines left by members of the group.

The RAF mountain rescuers also found a waterproof bag bearing the name "Neill" in an abandoned camp. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Neill, 46, was leader of the missing group.

In Kota Kinabula, the Sabah state capital, Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Schumacher, head of the rescue team, said: "We strongly believe that the five were here." But he added that a thorough search of the area had failed to find the soldiers. The rescuers would resume the search at daybreak.

Missing are Lt-Col Neil and Major Ronald Foster, 54, and Lam Ywai Ki, 27, Chen Wai Keung, 24, and Cheung Yiu Keung, 32, junior NCOs in Hong Kong's Royal Logistic Corps. With five others, they started their 10-day training expedition on February 22. The missing five were last seen four days later.

Corporal Hugh Brittan, 24, one of the group which reached safety, said yesterday the three Hong Kong soldiers ditched rations on the way up to lighten their load, and were ordered to replace them at base camp. They could not carry their 40 kg packs up the tourist path, and had to carry them in relays instead.

"If they couldn't get up the hill, what would they be like over the other side?" he said.

Survivor's story, page 3



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Commons jaw-jaw ignores the Euro-law war

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

With Britain teetering on the brink of starting a new civil war within the European Union, the Prime Minister came to the House to answer questions. The Leader of the Labour Party asked him about pre-payment of gas bills and the Leader of the Liberal Democrats asked him about nursery schools. One backbencher described to him the delights of Chester while another raised the issue of pensioners' bus passes in Strathclyde. Truly, our parliamentarians know how to spot the big issue.

We have always known John Smith as a man who does not rush to place his head unnecessarily above the parapet: but yesterday found his head so far *below* the parapet that one fancied one saw the soles of his feet appearing above it. Is there a name in clinical psychology for "fear of parapets?" — *parapetriphobia*, perhaps?

One imagines the year 2020. March 22, 1994 has become a date children learn in school: the day the EU hit the iceberg. The ancient John Smith (what is left of his hair now snowy white) dandles his latest little granddaughter on his knee . . .

"What did *you* do in the Great Euro-Row, grandpa?"

"I asked the Prime Minister about the early payment of gas bills, my darling."

As PM's questions ground on — something about Easter eggs, something about the Scottish water boards — we began to believe that the incredible was going to happen. Nobody at all would ask about Europe. But, minutes before the session was to end, Labour's bravest pro-European, Giles Radice, broke what looked suspiciously like a whipped strategy of keeping Opposition heads down. Colleagues peered round at him: a Bateman cartoon figure — the man who asked about Europe. Which did Mr Major think more important, asked Radice: the enlargement of the EU, or keeping the blocking minority at 23?

The PM let fly the redundant scripted reply he had prepared for John Smith, which ended in calling Smith "*Monsieur Oui*, the poodle of Brussels". Mr Major hit the *oui* pretty hard. Spell it how you like, it sounded infelicitous in the wake (as we had been reminded during health questions) of National Incontinence Week.

Anyway, if John Smith is *Monsieur Oui*, what is John Major? Surely it is to Lady Thatcher that the sobriquet *Madame Non* attaches? Paddy Ashdown, somewhere in between, must be *Monsieur Peutêtre*. Mr Major himself, who seems to have been ambushed by all this, strikes me as a natural *Monsieur Quoi*? Then, of course, there is Michael Heseltine, central to whose attitude to Europe is the matter of his reviving personal ambitions: *Monsieur Moi*, I think, hotly pursued by Michael Portillo, *Monsieur Moi aussi* — or perhaps *Señor Yo tambien*. That leaves only the gloriously insouciant Kenneth Clarke, who doubtless thinks this is all a ridiculous fuss about nothing. *Monsieur N'importe quoi*.

Still, which of us is without vanity? Certainly not Geoffrey Dickens, the Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, a man of vast proportions, a face like a Lancashire ham, modest abilities and limitless self-belief. Yesterday, replying to a hostile Labour backbencher, Major spoke of "the enormous wealth of talent behind me and supporting me".

Seared not far behind, Dickens, who seems to have taught the words "behind me" and "enormous", but missed the word "talent", stretched forth his arms in a victory wave, to acknowledge the cheers.

Ill-prepared Howe angers MPs in Pergau dam probe

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

■ **The former Foreign Secretary may be recalled by a Commons select committee "when he has refreshed his memory"**

LORD Howe of Aberavon yesterday infuriated MPs investigating the Pergau dam affair by failing to prepare fully for the Commons enquiry. The former Foreign Secretary irritated MPs investigating links between defence sales and the Pergau dam project by saying he had not had time to remind himself of events leading to a formal offer of more than £200 million in overseas aid to Malaysia.

Labour members of the Commons foreign affairs select committee demanded that Lord Howe be recalled to offer more evidence "when he has refreshed his memory".

In January Lord Howe appeared before the Scott arms-to-Iraq enquiry, and criticised Lord Justice Scott's handling of the hearings. Yesterday Lord Howe was on the receiving end of criticism himself as MPs complained that they had missed a chance to question a key witness about a crucial three-month period before Baroness Thatcher approved the Malaysian dam project in 1989.

Labour MPs led calls for Lord Howe to provide more detailed evidence, and Tory members also expressed concern. David Harris, a Tory committee member and formerly Lord Howe's private parliamentary secretary, said later: "I am not sure it added to the sum knowledge of the events surrounding Pergau." A private meeting next week will consider whether Lord Howe should be recalled.

After telling MPs that he had not briefed himself about the offer of aid for Pergau, he was pressed by Dennis Canavan, a Labour member of the committee, on why he had not reminded himself of the details by consulting Foreign Office papers. Lord Howe said he had dealt with an estimated 24 tons of paperwork during his six years as Foreign Secretary.

He supported Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, in telling MPs that Britain had, in March 1988, mistakenly tied an offer of aid to the defence contracts, in breach of government policy. But the link had been "disentangled" in June by the sending of two separate letters to the Malaysian government. However, he added: "It would have been very hard to hold Dr *Mahathir [Mohamed the Malaysian prime minister]* to the arms deal without reference to aid in the June letters."

Mr Harris, the St Ives MP, insisted: "The Malaysians still ended up with a lot of public money from this country which some people might think facilitated the arms sales. The link was broken but they got their money. We got our deal. There was almost an invisible linkage."

Lord Howe told of his "dismay" when he discovered the terms of the original agreement, signed in March 1988 by the then Defence Secretary, George Younger, now Lord Younger of Prestwick, under which arms sales and aid were entangled. "I said, 'Good gracious me. How far has George gone in committing [aid]?' There were then a number of meetings with Mr Younger. Asked if he would describe them as rows, Lord Howe replied: "We don't have rows."

Bardot rescues rugby refugees



Three cockerels smuggled into Murrayfield by French rugby fans will go back to France today, rather than be put down, after Brigitte Bardot intervened

NEWS IN BRIEF

Solicitors angry over frozen legal aid pay

Fresh hostilities between solicitors and the Lord Chancellor broke out yesterday after Lord Mackay of Clashfern announced he was freezing legal aid pay rates for the second year running. Lord Mackay told the Law Society and the Bar in a letter that the legal aid bill had trebled since 1986 to £1,224 million this year.

Rodger Pannone, president of the Law Society, said: "The Government returned to power on a manifesto promising to ensure access to legal services, but has betrayed that promise." Legal aid solicitors are planning to retaliate by refusing to apply for legal aid franchises under the Government's proposals to contract out legal aid work.

Divorce reform criticised

Government proposals to reform the divorce laws could lead to a "debacle" similar to that surrounding the Child Support Agency, the Law Society said yesterday. Rodger Pannone, the society's president, said the Government had "ignored the importance of ensuring that individuals have full access to legal advice and respresentation". The Lord Chancellor's consultation paper proposes encouraging couples to seek mediation in disputes over children and finance. They could be denied legal aid if they instead insist on going to court.

IRA camp discovered

Irish police seized three AK47 rifles and 2,000 rounds of ammunition from a secret IRA training camp in Co Sligo. Detectives uncovered the cache in a container hidden in a forest near the village of Skreen. A Garda spokesman said the remote spot was ideal for hiding weapons. "We believe we have disrupted IRA training activity in the area."

Cult women appeal

Sally Croft, 44, and Susan Hagan, 47, former British disciples of an American free-love cult who face charges in the United States of conspiracy to murder a state attorney, will appeal today to the Home Secretary to prevent their extradition. The women were refused leave for a full appeal to the House of Lords on Monday.

Canoe victims honoured

Schoolmates of the four Plymouth teenagers who died in the Lyme Bay canoe tragedy marked the anniversary of their deaths with a special assembly at Southway school. Parents renewed calls for tighter safety standards at outdoor centres, although education minister Eric Forth said yesterday in Parliament that changes already announced were adequate.

Ex-police chief's denial

Wyn Jones, sacked last year as assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard, is to fight allegations of shoplifting after his arrest at Marks & Spencer in Chelsea last week. Mr Jones, who was stopped by security staff as he left the store near his home, said: "I will strenuously deny any allegations." He left the police after being investigated for misconduct.

ITN plans news switch

ITN is planning to move its 5.40pm news bulletin to 6pm to compete head on with BBC1's *Six O'Clock News*. David Gordon, chief executive of ITN, said that its 5.40pm news suffered badly from being scheduled against *Neighbours*, and as a result attracted an average audience of 5.2 million, compared to 6.8 million for the BBC bulletin.

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Royal plea to help children survive

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS are struggling to teach their children "the basic norms of civilised behaviour" amid unacceptable levels of juvenile crime, drug addiction and child abuse, the Duke of Edinburgh said yesterday.

He said that the reality of modern life was often different from the ideal, in which schools imparted knowledge and skills and the churches and voluntary agencies provided a moral grounding.

The Duke told a conference in London examining the difficulties facing teenagers: "Family problems of all sorts can create tensions and alienation. A lot of young people find they are incompatible with school. Unless there is a powerful parental or peer pressure, it is not inevitable that young people are exposed to the influence of the church or youth organisations."

He urged government and voluntary agencies to work together to stop young people "slipping through the cracks in society".

The Duke, who is patron of the Royal Philanthropic Society, which organised the conference with the Trust for the Study of Adolescence, said that the security of a nine-to-five job for life had disappeared. The last 40 years had shown that "you cannot simply go along increasing the population and expecting it always to be employed".

All pupils to read literary greats in revised curriculum

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND BEN PRESTON

PUPILS in state schools will be required to read works from a prescribed list of more than 40 authors as part of the revised curriculum agreed by government advisers at a six-hour meeting yesterday.

As well as studying a Shakespeare play, children in the first three years of secondary school will have to read one novel from a selection of pre-20th century authors. The list will include Robert Louis Stevenson, Daniel Defoe, Thomas Hardy, Mark Twain, Louisa Alcott, Charles Dickens and the Brontës.

Pupils will also be required to read a work by one modern author, two pre-20th century poets, three modern poets and another play. Among the modern authors are George Orwell, John Steinbeck and H.G. Wells.

The decision to include reading lists in the new English curriculum has proved one of the most difficult faced by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority. The working party of teachers and academics revising the curriculum was split on the issue, but yesterday's meeting of the full SCAA council was unanimous.

The meeting marks the end of the first stage in the slimming down of the ten-subject national curriculum. John Patten, the Education Secretary, wants to reduce the content of compulsory lessons, freeing the equivalent of one day a week for schools to use at their discretion.

Mr Patten will consider the blueprint agreed yesterday before opening public consultation in May. The new curriculum must be law by November to give schools two terms to prepare for its introduction in September 1995.

The debate is likely to centre on English and history, as well as the fate of the ten-level scale by which pupils are assessed. Mr Patten has given his backing to traditionalists who want more emphasis placed on British history. Despite the criticisms of one working party member, yesterday's proposals stress the importance of historical fact over the acquisition of skills, and are unlikely to be rejected wholesale.

Some amendments may yet be made to the ten-level scale, making the top two grades easier to reflect the ending of national curriculum assessment at 14 rather than 16 under the new arrangements.

Further consideration will also be given to the volume of work expected between the ages of seven and 11. Inspectors' reports have highlighted junior schools as the weak link in the state education system.

As expected, yesterday's meeting also agreed to make competitive games compulsory between 14 and 16. The Prime Minister has thrown his weight behind the move to revive school sport.

Home move

Continued from page 1

of Worcester, the Right Rev Harold Goodrich, lives in Hartlebury Castle in Worcester. Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, lives in Bishopthorpe Palace just outside York.

David Long, houses and bishoprics secretary at the Church Commissioners, said: "The commissioners are reviewing the future of all the bishops' houses. We are doing it to ensure that bishops are adequately and properly housed, and that the resources of the Church are best used given the difficult financial situation. The future of the bishop's house at Peterborough is being considered. We are engaged in discussions about the future of the house."

Bishop and Mrs Westwood, whose children have left home, occupy two floors. On the ground floor they have a study, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, secretary's office and chapel. On the first floor are eight bedrooms, four bathrooms and a private sitting room.

Bishops who leave their palaces usually go to a seven-bedroom house with reception rooms and office. Mr Long said: "They do not get downgraded."

☐ The type of house favoured by the Church Commissioners, a seven-bedroom house with office and reception rooms, could not be had in Peterborough for less than £330,000 (Robi Dutta writes).

Estate agents Dickens, Watts and Dade are offering a red brick Georgian manor house in Thorney, six miles east of the city, which for £330,000 includes original oak floors and beams, a formal garden, paddock and lake.

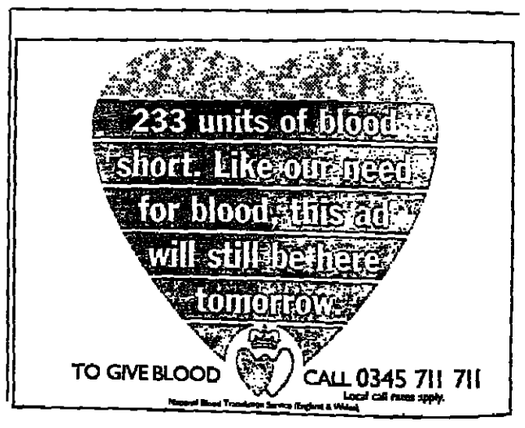
Parish engages Major

JOHN Major's efforts to help a constituent have fallen foul of the Huntingdon District Council planning committee, (Ian Murray writes).

Councillors ignored the Prime Minister's plea that the telephone box in the village of Hemingford Grey should be moved and backed the 13 parish councillors who wanted it kept where it was.

Mr Major had heard how the telephone box in the centre of the village was disrupting the lives of the family living beside it. The parish council, angered after learning that the Prime Minister had contacted Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman of BT, to lobby for the box to be moved, organised a petition signed by nearly half the villagers demanding that the box should stay put.

BT said yesterday it intended to go on looking for an alternative site. The parish council chairman, Bridget Smith, said Mr Major "should have listened to the democratic voice of the village".



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Jungle trek survivor tells of last time he saw army comrades

By Dominic Kennedy and Jonathan Mirsky



Brittan: proud to have conquered hard descent

A BRITISH soldier yesterday described how he survived an arduous trek through the mountain jungles of Borneo during which five of his comrades went missing.

Corporal Hugh Brittan, 24, said he was proud to have conquered the hardest descent from Mount Kinabalu, via the treacherous Low's Gully.

As RAF rescuers found more traces of food left by the lost men 8,000ft below the summit, Cpl Brittan described how he and four other soldiers survived despite running out of rations, losing equipment and having to nurse one man who was badly injured.

"I am quite proud of what we did. We are the first people to have taken that route," he told *The Times* in a telephone interview from a hotel in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysian Borneo. "Certainly I have learnt lessons that I can apply in future."

Cpl Brittan, from Kent, was in a party of ten British soldiers on an Army-approved adventure training expedition to descend from the 13,455ft peak of Mount Kinabalu, the highest point in southeast Asia.

The team, from the Royal Logistics Corps, set out on February 22 for what should have been a ten-day trip, equipped with powdered food, climbing equipment, first aid kit and sleeping gear. From early on, they split into two groups of five, with five younger men, including Cpl Brittan, making swifter progress than the group which included the team leader, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Neill, 46, his second-in-command Major Ronald Foster, 54, and three Hong Kong Chinese non-commissioned officers.

On February 27, Lt Col Neill agreed that the young Britons should "crack on and clear a path": cutting a trail through jungle, putting ropes in place for abseiling, and leaving notes for their colleagues to follow.

The last time the swifter group saw their companions was on March 1. The men in front were beginning to abseil into Low's Gully, and could see the others still climbing down Easy Valley, a less steep section at the beginning of the descent.

From March 3, the rock slopes became steeper, and they began to encounter waterfalls, plunge pools and boulders as big as houses. "It's extremely physically demanding, and in four days we covered only a mile," he said.

On March 6, Lance Corporal Peter Shearer suffered a serious fall when a tree holding his abseil rope gave way. "He crashed down 60ft and landed on the rock face. He had quite a bad gash on his head, which I tended, and he chipped a tooth. He injured his leg and battered his knees quite badly. He was in a bad way and soon afterwards became concussed, so we had to slow things down," Cpl Brittan said.

On March 8, the group split again, two men going ahead while Cpl Brittan and Lance Corporal Steve Page stayed with L Cpl Shearer. L Cpl Page lost his kit, containing the group's last rope and emergency rations, in a waterfall on March 9.

"We hadn't eaten the day before," Cpl Brittan said. "We weren't very pleased. We'd been taking multivitamin tablets and cod liver oil for breakfast."

There were other perils from travelling so long in the water. "L Cpl Shearer had the biggest leech I have ever seen on his eye one night and lost a good deal of blood: that didn't help his condition."

The group left the jungle on March 11, welcomed by villagers who gave them food and shelter before arranging transport to Kota Kinabalu, capital of Sabah state, where they raised the alarm.

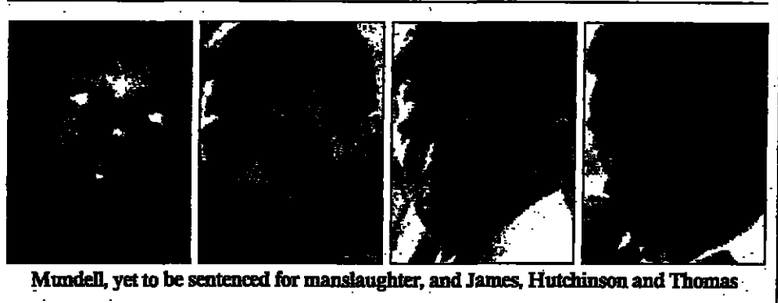
Cpl Brittan defended the adventure training expedition, and said he believed the team had gone properly prepared and equipped.

Answering critics who said the party should have had radio contact, he said that the kit was heavy enough without radio equipment, and it was uncertain whether they would have been able to contact anyone.

There were serious differences in fitness levels between members of the expedition from the start. On the second day, while still ascending by the tourist route, Lt Col Neill had to order the swifter men back down the mountain to help their colleagues who were struggling with their kit. That evening, the ten men discussed whether they should continue. Lt Col Neill decided the expedition should go ahead, but declared a rest day. While the Chinese men and the older officers rested, the fitter young Britons climbed to the summit and visited several of the peaks.



A rescuer on board a Malaysian airforce search and rescue helicopter looks for signs of the soldiers who have been missing for 22 days



Mundell, yet to be sentenced for manslaughter, and James, Hutchinson and Thomas

Youths who killed 'like pack of animals' detained for life

By Richard Duce

THE three gang members who kicked a man to death on a Cardiff council estate were jailed yesterday by a judge who said they had acted like a pack of wild animals.

Stephen James, Shane Hutchinson and Andrew Thomas were mimicking a film about gang warfare in America when they murdered Les Reed. Mr Justice Scott Baker told them: "Too many young people these days arrogantly seek to dominate their communities by their aggressive and physical presence."

James, 20, was jailed for life. Hutchinson and Thomas, both 17, were ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

The judge said the murder had provoked revulsion far outside the Ely housing estate where Mr Reed, 45, was kicked to death and his lifelong friend Philip Tull seriously injured last June. They were attacked when Mr Reed remonstrated with the gang for damaging a traffic bollard.

James, Hutchinson and Thomas, members of the Avenue Gang, each received eight-year concurrent terms for causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Tull. The judge, passing sentence after a three-week trial at Cardiff Crown Court, lifted an order banning identification of Hutchinson and Thomas, who were convicted of murder on Monday.

As they were led away, the youths showed no emotion. All three had several previous convictions for violence. Hutchinson and James had taken part in rioting on the Ely estate in 1991. Thomas had a conviction for wounding Mr Reed's son Martin two years ago.

A fourth defendant, Michael Mundell, 20, who was cleared of murder but found guilty of manslaughter, will be sentenced after the judge has studied reports on him.

After the sentencing yesterday, Mr Reed's widow, Linda, said she felt great pity for the parents of her husband's killers. "I watched the faces of the boys' families when they were sentenced. They looked so upset. But I just wanted to shout, 'You've lost your children for a few years but I've lost Les for ever."

Mrs Reed, who has three children, is moving from her house, which is close to the green where her husband was attacked.

The film seen by the gang is called *Juice*, American slang for respect. Some video rental shops in Cardiff have now banned it.

Ron Stuart, owner of Videoland, which is near the scene of Mr Reed's murder, said: "It is perfectly legal to rent this film out to a 15-year-old youth, but in the light of what has happened I feel it should have its certificate withdrawn."

Leading article, page 19



The long, hot summer of the micro mini

IAIN R. WEBB ON SHORT CUTS TO STYLE IN THE

MAGAZINE

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10-year-olds have lesson in sex acts

By Paul Wilkinson

A HEAD teacher has apologised after pupils aged ten were told about oral sex and allowed to use obscenities in a classroom drama based on an extra-marital affair.

The sessions have been condemned by parents and the local education authority. Yesterday Sylvia Snowdon, the headmistress of Highfield Primary at Shadwell, Leeds, admitted an error of judgment. But she was supportive of the class leader, Sue Brady, a nurse, and her "self-development workshops".

Ms Snowdon said: "The session that has caused all the furore was one where children were invited to write down words that they associated with growing up. Mrs Brady said she would explain everything the children did not understand. Amongst many words were 'Mars Bar party' and 'blow job'. These more sensitive deviant areas should have been explained individually to the children and not to the whole group."

Tom Murray, of Leeds education committee, said: "It is not appropriate for a class of 10 and 11-year-olds to discuss oral sex in a classroom."

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Lawyer says Lyell failed to disclose minister's doubts

BY MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE position of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, was put under further pressure yesterday after the Scott enquiry was told how he failed to notify the prosecution in the Matrix Churchill trial about ministerial reservations over the use of public interest immunity certificates.

Alan Moses QC, who prosecuted the case on behalf of Customs and Excise, told Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair that he was never informed that Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, wanted the secret documents on the Government's arms export policy handed to the defence.

Mr Heseltine initially refused to sign a public interest immunity certificate, but finally did so only after he received written assurances from Sir Nicholas that the trial judge would be told of Mr Heseltine's belief that disclosure of the documents would not damage the public interest.

But Mr Moses told the enquiry that during a meeting with Sir Nicholas in September 1992, shortly before the Matrix Churchill trial began, the Attorney-General did not mention Mr Heseltine's concerns. Mr Moses said Sir Nicholas assured him that all ministers had signed certificates to protect the public interest. Mr Moses told the enquiry that a draft copy of Mr Heseltine's certificate, sent to the prosecution by government lawyers, had Mr Heseltine's reservations "crossed out".

Earlier, Mr Moses appeared to suggest that it was up to the minister to decide whether disclosure of government documents in a criminal trial would damage the public interest. This view contradicts the advice given by Sir Nicholas that ministers had an inescapable legal duty to sign.

Sir Nicholas, who is due to appear before the Scott enquiry tomorrow, will now have to explain why he failed to honour the promise he gave to Mr Heseltine, and justify his belief that ministers have to assert a sweeping power of concealment over all government documents.

Mr Moses also conceded that he had been wrong to use the gagging orders in the Matrix Churchill trial. He said that public confidence in the system of justice had been seriously damaged by the attempt to withhold evidence that later proved to be vital in proving innocence.

Mr Moses told the enquiry that he fully understood the anger of the four ministers who signed the certificates, Kenneth Clarke, the Home Secretary; Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary; Tristan Garel-Jones, the former Foreign Office minister, and Mr Heseltine, who have been criticised for their role in the Matrix Churchill trial. Mr Moses said: "I can see a minister would be very ill-advised to sign a certificate unless he was quite satisfied as to the reasoning of the prosecution, for fear that he was going to be accused of withholding documents which a judge has then ordered to be disclosed."

Thatcher vows to maintain hectic schedule



Baroness Thatcher is helped after passing out while making a speech to Chilean businessmen in Santiago (Jonathan Prynn writes). Aides yesterday rejected overwork as the cause of her fainting fit on Monday night, instead blaming a stomach bug and the stuffiness of the room. Lady Thatcher, 68, said she was "feeling much better" and planned to continue her hectic South American tour according to schedule. The ten-day visit to Brazil, Chile and Mexico involves three keynote speeches, and breakfast meetings and dinner engagements almost every day. Her programme yesterday included a visit to a local English school and dinner with the former president, General Augusto Pinochet. Once home, there will be no let-up. Her diary is filled for a year ahead with a selection of the hundreds of invitations that pour into her office. Spare moments are spent on the next volume of memoirs. However, friends say that Lady Thatcher has halved the 20-hour-a-day schedule of her Downing Street years.

Reform of victims' awards halted

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's new criminal injuries compensation scheme was on put on ice yesterday after 11 trade unions won the right to challenge it in the High Court. The unions say the scheme — due to come into effect on April 1 — will sharply reduce awards to victims.

Mr Justice Owen granted them leave to bring judicial review proceedings and said that the hearing should take place as soon as possible.

Guy Sankey QC, for Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said that the application was misconceived. However, he did not oppose the application for leave as he accepted that there was an arguable issue of public interest.

In the meantime, he gave an assurance that no final award would be made to any claimant who lodges a claim until the courts have made a ruling.

Andrew Dismore, solicitor for the unions — which include the TUC, The Fire Brigades' Union, The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the Prison Officers' Association and the Royal College of Nursing — described the new scheme as appalling and half-baked.

He said: "We are very pleased that the court has accepted that this case should be heard. The judge recognised the case as being of great importance to the public and it is essential that it is determined as quickly as possible so that victims of crime will continue to benefit from fair compensaton levels, rather than losing out dramatically in the Government's plans."

He said the proposed tariff-based system confirmed their worst fears. The tariff replaces the present scheme — in which awards are assessed according to individual circumstances — with a simple payment according to the type of injury received. No account is taken of loss of earnings or medical expenses, as at present.

"The unions are very concerned about the effect on their members who face daily risks of being attacked in their jobs," Mr Dismore said.

Under the new scheme, the most seriously affected would get tens of thousands rather than hundreds of thousands, he said.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of NASUWT, said: "It's an extraordinary scheme for a Government who are supposed to be committed to law and order." He added: "It's a vicious attack on the victims of crime."

Moore held over fight at home

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

DUDLEY Moore, the actor and musician, was arrested at his Los Angeles home suspected of battering his girl friend.

While most of the film community was at the Oscars, Moore was apparently quarrelling with the woman. He was arrested and released later on Monday evening on bail of $50,000 (£33,000).

Moore himself telephoned police to report a domestic dispute at 7.35pm. Soon afterwards, police received a similar call from a woman whose name is Nicole Rothschild, according to one news agency. Miss Rothschild, who is said to have known Moore for about nine years, claimed to have been beaten by him. Police who went to his home in the Venice district said she had suffered "minor but visible trauma to the neck area".

The star of *Arthur* and *10*, who lives in California in self-imposed exile, was divorced less than a year ago for the third time. The Los Angeles district attorney's office is expected to decide within one or two days whether to file charges.

MP died alone by accident, coroner finds

BY BILL FROST

STEPHEN Milligan, the Conservative MP found naked apart from a pair of stockings and suspenders, died by misadventure, a coroner decided yesterday.

Mr Milligan had a plastic bag over his head and a makeshift noose of electrical flex around his neck when police arrived at his west London home.

Dr John Burton, the Westminster coroner, told the inquest that the death of the 45-year-old MP for Eastleigh was a "tragic and entirely personal" case. He recorded his verdict after being told by Dr Iain West, a Home Office pathologist, that Mr Milligan died through using apparatus controlled by his legs and meant to constrict the main artery in his neck.

Compression of the artery could have made Mr Milligan faint — after which he would "be unable to regain consciousness and would be unable to free himself", Dr West said.

Mr Milligan's body was found on the kitchen table at his home in Hammersmith on February 7. He died after an act of sexual gratification went wrong. Dr West said Mr Milligan appeared to have done the same thing before, adding: "It is a very dangerous act."

The coroner said he could find no evidence that Mr Milligan intentionally took his own life. Dr Burton said he came across similar deaths two or three times a year.

Individuals over a period of time used partial suffocation, and may have done it frequently, he added. "If anything goes wrong at all you find yourself, in effect, stuck," he said. "As far as I can determine this is another of those tragic and entirely personal cases."



Milligan: "A tragic and entirely personal case"

The west London coroner told the hearing, which was attended by members of the MP's family, that there was no evidence of another person being involved. "This is a tragic accident," he said. As all the evidence indicated that death was unintentional, he concluded that it was death by misadventure.

Det Supt Brian Edwards, the officer in charge of the investigation into Mr Milligan's death, said that the MP had used the noose in the past. The flex had been padded with material and appeared to have been kept in a box along with other apparatus.

Commenting on the suggestion that anyone else could have been involved in Mr Milligan's death, Mr Edwards said: "I would have said there were strong indications that pointed to the fact that Mr Milligan was alone when he died."



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Breathless hush upstages night of Oscar speeches



Anna Paquin, Best Supporting Actress in *The Piano*

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

HOLLYWOOD woke yesterday knowing it had put on a good show. The 66th annual academy awards ceremony was a night of highly charges speeches inspired by deeply serious films. Predictions that American talent would be honoured and most British nominees disappointed proved accurate, while in the one big upset a little girl from New Zealand let the world hold its breath while she found hers.

Steven Spielberg won his long-awaited hour of Oscar glory, and nearly choked on it. Accepting the Best Director award for *Schindler's List*, his searing film about the Holocaust, he was barely able to speak as he acknowledged a debt to its victims, "the six million who can't be watching this". Back on the podium a moment later to collect the Oscar for Best Picture, Spielberg urged American schools to prevent the Holocaust from becoming "a footnote in history".

Schindler's List won seven of the 12 Oscars for which it had been nominated, but lost out in the acting categories. Tommy Lee Jones, sporting a shaved scalp for his latest film, won one of the evening's biggest cheers as he walked up to receive the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for *The Fugitive*, beating the British actor Ralph Fiennes in *Schindler's List*.

The pattern was repeated in the most hotly contested category, for Best Actor. Liam Neeson (*Schindler's List*), Anthony Hopkins (*The Remains of the Day*) and Daniel Day-Lewis (*The Name of the Father*) all gave arguably the finest performances of their careers, but were pipped to the podium by Tom Hanks, a darling of the American film industry, who won for his low-key performance as a lawyer with Aids in *Philadelphia*. Hanks's acceptance speech was anything but low-key. Speaking without notes and fighting back tears, he paid a long and at times bewildering tribute to two gay friends, one of whom had died recently of Aids. "I know that my work is magnified by the fact that the streets of heaven are too crowded with angels," he said. "We know their names. They number a thousand for each one of the red ribbons that we wear here tonight."

Britain's only success was in the short animated film category, won by Nick Park, of Bristol, for *The Wrong Trousers*. Park, whose clay models feature in the "Creature Comforts" advertisements for electricity, won in the same category in 1991.

The solemn tenor of the show was lightened, as expected, by its presenter Whoopi Goldberg and her flurry of risqué one-liners. But the unexpected high point of the evening was 11-year-old Anna Paquin's Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in *The Piano*. Paquin, who was nine when the film was shot, was chosen from more 5,000 who auditioned for the part, including her older sister. For several long seconds as she stood at the podium, she seemed struck dumb by the vast audience, but then managed a short speech of thanks.

The Piano, Jane Campion's unusual film about a mute Scotswoman arriving in New Zealand for an arranged marriage, also won the Best Actress award for Holly Hunter and Best Original Screenplay.

Emma Thompson, who had been nominated for Best Actress in *The Remains of the Day*, claimed afterwards that she was pleased not to have won. "I didn't expect to win anything," she said outside a Beverly Hills restaurant. "It would be awful. Can you imagine? I would have been assassinated in my own country," she added, referring to the perceived penchant of the press for denigrating her successes.

What might have been in the movies

IT IS hard to imagine Cary Grant as James Bond, John Travolta or Al Pacino instead of Sylvester Stallone as Rambo, but it could have happened, according to a book published next month. *Starring Roles, How Movie Stardom in Hollywood is Lost and Won*, by Canadian film critic Ron Base (Little, Brown), highlights what might have been — the parts the stars turned down, the failed auditions and the trials of the casting couch. It also charts the rise of the stars, from the days they were "owned" by the big studios to today's pampered, overpaid élite.

Ben Macintyre, page 17
Diary, page 18
Letters, page 19



Multiple winner Steven Spielberg with Harrison Ford

Animator wears the trousers with lone British win

BY ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

BRITAIN'S only 1994 Oscar winner, Nick Park, was celebrating in Hollywood yesterday. But the lack of awards for the British was described as "very dispiriting" by the industry's film institute.

Nick Park, who won the best animated short-film award for the second time, attended Elton John's party into the early hours.

His winning film, *The Wrong Trousers*, is a comedy-thriller starring the plasticine character Gromit and his dog Wallace whose adventures begin when they buy a pair of mechanical trousers that had been used in outer space.

Park, aged 34, described the Oscar ceremony as "overwhelming. I don't think there is any other experience in life that can get you so nervous. But the award means a lot for the animation industry."

Park, who comes from Preston, started making films in his parents' attic at the age of 13 and studied at the Sheffield Art School.

He continued to learn about animation at the National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield and it was there that he started work on the first Wallace and Gromit film, *A Grand Day Out*. Park joined the Bristol-based Aardman Animation in 1985, where he completed the film that won a Bafta in 1990.

Four out of the five Oscar nominations for best animated short film this year were British and the country's animation industry is regarded as the best in the world.

Much creative talent comes from the world-beating advertising industry. Park won the Oscar in 1991 for *Creature Comforts*, which began life as an advertisement.

The BBC and Channel 4 are important patrons of the animation industry and play a large part in its success. *The Wrong Trousers* was commissioned by BBC Bristol and is funded by the corporation. Britain also hosts one of the key events in the animation industry calender: the Cardiff Animation Festival, which takes place in May.

While Britain leads the world in this category of film-making, the sorry state of the feature film industry was highlighted at the Oscar ceremony. Despite receiving 16 nominations, the British went away almost empty-handed.

Wilf Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute, said that over the last 20 years British films had won on average 30 per cent of the awards. But most of those had been in technical categories for films such as the *Indiana Jones* and *Star Wars* series which were made in Britain. "Those days have gone," he said yesterday.



Park: his second Oscar within four years

...and the Oscar winners

Best picture, *Schindler's List*; **Best actor**, Tom Hanks in *Philadelphia*; **Best actress**, Holly Hunter in *The Piano*; **Best director**, Steven Spielberg, *Schindler's List*; **Best supporting actor**, Tommy Lee Jones, *The Fugitive*; **Best supporting actress**, Anna Paquin, *The Piano*.

Best art direction, Allan Starski, art direction; Ewa Braun, set direction, *Schindler's List*; **Best visual effects**, Dennis Muren, Stan Winston, Phil Tippett, Michael Lantieri, *Jurassic Park*; **Best make-up**, Greg Cannom, Ve Neill, Yolanda Toussieng, *Mrs Doubtfire*.

Best sound effects editing, Gary Rydstrom, Richard Hymns, *Jurassic Park*; **Best animated short film**, *The Wrong Trousers*, Nicholas Park, producer; **Best live action short film**, *Black Rider*, Pepe Danquart, producer; **Best sound**, Gary Summers, Gary Rydstrom, Shawn Murphy, Ron Judkins, *Jurassic Park*; **Best costume design**, Gabriella Pescucci, *The Age of Innocence*; **Best documentary short subject**, *Defending Our Lives*, Margaret Lazarus and Renner Wunderlich, producers. **Best documentary feature**, *I Am a Promise: The Children of Stanton Elementary School*, Susan Raymond and Alan Raymond, producers; **Best original score**: John Williams, *Schindler's List*; **Best cinematography**, Janusz Kaminski, *Schindler's List*; **Best foreign language film**, *Belle Epoque* (Spain).

Best film editing, Michael Kahn, *Schindler's List*; **Best original song**: *Streets of Philadelphia*, from *Philadelphia*, Bruce Springsteen; **Best original screenplay**, Jane Campion, *The Piano*; **Best screenplay adaptation**, Steven Zaillian, *Schindler's List*.

AREAS FOR FOR STAFF IMPROVEMENT AREN'T ALWAYS OBVIOUS.

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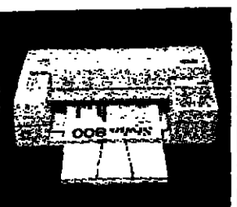
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Embittered consultants threaten to leave NHS

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR NHS consultants are threatening to leave the service in protest at government reforms and sell their services back to hospitals.

The move, which would disrupt the hospital service, is to be studied by the British Medical Association, which says support for withdrawal is growing. One proposal is for consultants to model themselves on barristers, setting up medical chambers offering expertise in a particular specialty, such as gynaecology or anaesthetics.

John Chawner, chairman of the BMA's consultants' committee, said decisions on what care should be given and to whom were increasingly being taken by managers, who were driven by financial constraints. The move would give consultants greater freedom from interference by managers in their clinical work.

"Consultants are suggesting that they should leave the health service because of the frustration. It is obvious to everyone but ministers that there is huge dissatisfaction."

A motion calling on consultants to resign from the NHS is to be put to the BMA's annual conference in June. A similar proposal last year was narrowly defeated, but Mr Chawner said greater support was expected this time.

"I would expect at least 40 per cent to support it. If it is the wish of the membership, then we will look at it. I see no reason why a consortium of specialists should not set up independently. It would certainly be practicable for all the anaesthetists in a city, say, to resign and sell their services back. They would then be in a position to decide how they worked — on clinical grounds, not on managerial grounds."

Mr Chawner said he hoped the resignations would not go ahead because it would mean the NHS had failed. The consultants' discontent had nothing to do with money but with the "general ambience" of the service. The reforms had "destroyed the brotherhood of the NHS", leaving doctors and nurses with less freedom and patients worse off. Frustration was growing and consultants were being prevented from speaking about their concerns.

"Those who worked together now go out to compete for business and don't pass information on. Gagging is happening. We are getting more and more consultants writing to us asking us to guarantee their anonymity," he said.

Senior consultants are the most aggrieved by the reforms because they have lost power to managers and GPs, whose role has been strengthened by fundholding.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the GPs' committee, blamed the Government's emphasis on health promotion for worrying patients unnecessarily. He said: "Some patients have become more anxious and introspective. A great deal of our workload is made up of people who were well until we got our hands on them and now suffer a high degree of hypochondria."

Health MoT urged to keep GPs in touch

FAMILY doctors should be required to pass the medical equivalent of the MoT to keep them up to date with the latest developments, a report by NHS managers says (Jeremy Laurance writes).

Regular tests would reduce the risk of errors resulting from poor practice. Recent cases have shown GPs using old or unorthodox techniques to take cervical smears.

The report, by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, says that the training of GPs should also be extended from three years to five to equip them with the extra skills they need as they take on more work once done by hospitals.

Philip Hunt, director of the association, said new research techniques were showing which treatments were most effective but many doctors did not know about them.

PAUL GROVER



Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose and his wife Angela at Buckingham Palace yesterday

Leader of UN force knighted

THE Queen told the British general overseeing the truce in Bosnia yesterday that the sight of the band of the Coldstream Guards striding across a football pitch in Sarajevo at the weekend was a signal to the world of the work being done in the former Yugoslavia.

As she knighted Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, she spoke of her admiration for the British troops in Bosnia.

Sir Michael, 54, who heads the UN protection force, said after the ceremony at Buckingham Palace that he believed the peace process was irreversible. "The people of Bosnia ... have fought a civil war for 22 months and seen the most horrendous death and destruction caused in their country and it is gaining them nothing."

The Queen also invested the Tottenham Hotspur footballer Gary Mabbutt with the insignia of the MBE and offered him best wishes for a full recovery from a serious facial injury. Mabbutt, 32, is playing again, four months after he was carried off against Wimbledon with a shattered cheekbone.



Woman 'is unfit to be mother'

A judge told a mother who stabbed her broke the arm of her five-year-old son in a fit of temper that she should never have had children.

The mother of three, aged 26, had attacked him and his younger brother after they emptied the fridge of food, Liverpool Crown Court was told.

Judge Wickham ordered the Kirkby woman, who also stabbed the boy with a fork, to live in a probation hostel for two years after she admitted unlawful wounding and said her cruelty made her unfit to be a mother. "She should never have had children at all."

Forced down

A BAC 1-11 flying from Amsterdam to London was diverted to Birmingham airport to make an emergency landing after a passenger noticed a crack in a window. None of the 50 passengers was hurt.

Ninth life

Ray "The Cat" Jones, 77, who has confessed to stealing jewels from the film star Sophia Loren 34 years ago, will not be charged because it is too late to gather evidence, police in London said.

Store infested

The supermarket chain Kwik Save was fined £4,500 by South Sefton magistrates after health inspectors found the store in Bootle, Merseyside, infested with mice.

Day to forget

John Crew, of Cheddar, Somerset, threw a surprise 50th birthday party for his wife Joan with cabaret and 150 guests — only to discover it was her 49th.

BR sell-off to private sector delayed

BY TIM JONES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT ministers last night conceded it could be more than a year before the first private company moves in to break up British Rail's 45-year monopoly.

Previously, ministers had indicated that the sell-off would be under way by this spring.

John MacGregor, the Transport Secretary, refused to say yesterday how many private companies or management buy-out teams were interested in BR. One senior British Rail source said: "The fact is that apart from management buy-out teams no major company we know of has expressed a serious interest in running the railways."

Mr MacGregor said he had never disguised the fact that the plan to grant franchise agreements to 25 operators was extremely complex, and said firm bids would not be expected until private bidders were in receipt of all the facts.

He said that following a period of being run as "shadow" businesses, the first six franchises would be awarded by the end of next year. More than half of all passenger services would be covered by franchise agreements within two years, he said.

Frank Dobson, shadow Transport Secretary, said that just days before the launch of Railtrak, the company charged with running the network's track and maintenance infrastructure, the "whole madcap scheme is falling apart".

☐ Mr MacGregor has denied there are severe doubts over the CrossRail project for tunnels to carry up to 26,000 passengers an hour beneath Paddington and Liverpool Street stations in London.

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PARIS	£78	£93	£138
FRANKFURT	£24	£96	£125
DUBLIN	£44	£90	£89
NICE	£126	£172	£179
PALMA	£96	£134	£194

Compared to other airlines' full Euro-class return fares. Information correct at time of going to press in March 1994

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KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Reader's game

Rowan Brown won the following game in the Peterborough League by using the counter-attacking Schliemann variation against the Ruy Lopez. In the final position, 22 Qg3 and 22 Qg4 both lose the queen to 22 ... Ne2+.

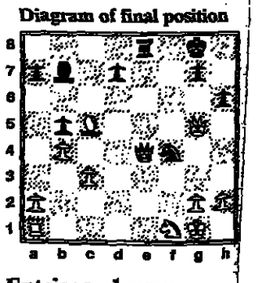
White: Brian Coop
Black: Rowan Brown
Peterborough League, 1994

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	f5
4	d3	Nf6
5	0-0	Bc5
6	Nxe5	Nxe5
7	d4	Nxe4
8	dxc5	Qe7
9	b4	b6
10	Bb2	c6
11	f3	cxb5
12	bxe4	Bb7
13	exf5	0-0
14	Qe1	Rxf5
15	Nd2	Rxf1+
16	Nxf1	Re8
17	Qg3	Ng6
18	Bd4	Qe4
19	c3	bxc5
20	Bxc5	Nf4
21	Qg5	h6

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Entries welcome

Readers' games are welcomed for possible publication in this column. Please send your efforts to Raymond Keene, c/o Championship Chess, *The Times*, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. Games should be typed and in the standard algebraic notation as used by *The Times*.

Sick Children's Trust

Nigel Short is giving a simultaneous chess display at Simpson's-in-the-Strand in central London on Sunday afternoon in aid of the Sick Children's Trust. For further information, or if you want to play please call Simpson's immediately on 071-836 9112.

Winning Move, page

Farming villages on the front line plead for action to save Europe's fastest eroding coastline

Time and tide rip into the frontier of old England

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

EACH morning, as the tides crash into the red-brown cliffs outside their home, Shawn and Yvonne Mars check to see if the front garden is still there. They live on the edge of Europe's fastest eroding coastline.

Four years ago, they bought six acres of land and an old farmhouse at Cowden near Hornsea on the South Yorkshire coast. They have only five acres left today. The sea, which was a hundred yards away when they moved in, is scarcely half that distance from their home now.

"We were born and brought up just down the road so we knew about the problem," says Yvonne. "But we never expected the land to disappear so fast and nor did the mortgage company, or they would never have given us a loan."

Holderness council has promised to save their home by building a stone groyne at the foot of the cliffs to trap the silt and stop the advance of the North Sea. But the council has said it will not act until the cliff edge is within 30 yards of the Mars's front door.

A quarter of a mile north along the coast, the farm that Sue Earl runs is almost falling over the edge. The council says it is to build a groyne there to save it but she has been outraged at the refusal to do anything till the last minute. She is among those campaigning to save the coastline from Bridlington to Spurn Head, which is being smashed back by almost 6ft a year.

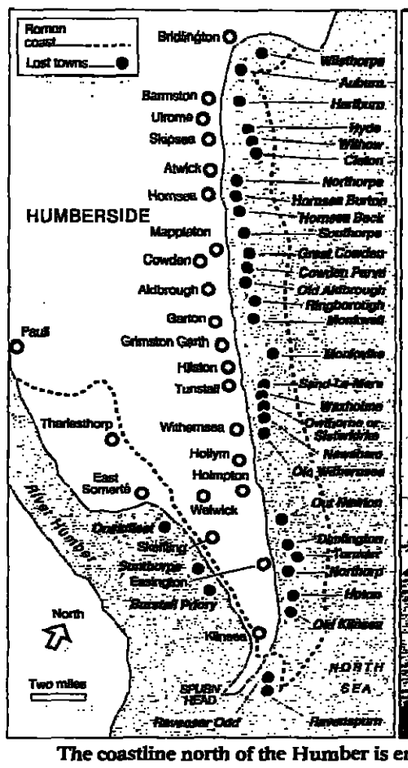
Eddie Knapp, the council's principal engineer, declares: "We have lost 30 villages along the coast since the Romans, but we are determined not to lose any more."

His main concern is to protect the BP and British Gas terminals on the cliff edge at Easington, which handle a quarter of all the gas burnt in Britain and could be threatened next winter. After meeting opposition to his original protection plan, it has been replaced. Easington residents wanted the stone barrier extended to protect the village.

However, Mr Knapp says, the Countryside Commission "think that the sediment from the cliffs is washed up the Humber where it provides essential protection for the river banks. If we stop the erosion, they say that it won't be long before Hull is under water."

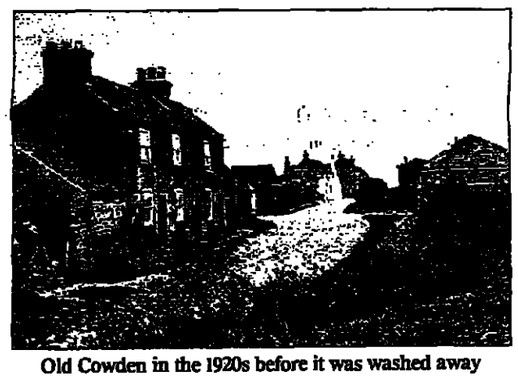
Earl Howe, the junior agriculture minister, toured the coastline this month. At East Newton he met Michael Meadley, whose father saw the 145 acres he bought before the war shrink to 110 acres by the time he died in 1982. He asked the minister if they could claim set-aside, the payment for keeping land out of agricultural use, "but he said no. We get no compensation at all for agricultural land because they say it is worth nothing."

Margaret Westoby, a Cowden councillor who has compiled a history of the old village which collapsed into the sea about 60 years ago, remarks: "They are wrong to put no value on the land. They must do everything to save it because every time the cliff collapses we lose a bit of England."



CHRIS HARRIS

The coastline north of the Humber is encroaching on the farm run by Yvonne Mars, who has lost an acre to erosion in four years while waiting for the council to act



Old Cowden in the 1920s before it was washed away

Prince's biography heads ITV schedule

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN OFFICIAL biography of the Prince of Wales, in which he speaks candidly about his private and public life, is the centrepiece of the ITV network's spring and summer schedule.

The two-hour programme, to be shown on June 29, is the result of a 15-month collaboration between the Prince and Jonathan Dimbleby, the presenter. It follows the heir to the throne on official visits to Mexico, Poland, the Gulf and Australia and marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of his investiture.

The documentary contains previously unseen footage of the attack on the Prince by a student carrying a starting pistol during the Australian tour in January. Afterwards the Prince remarks: "It is just as well he tripped on the platform, otherwise he might have cannoned into me." Central television said it had retained complete editorial control.

The network will also show *The Windsors*, which examines the history of the House of Windsor.

Other new programmes include *Cadfael*, in which Sir Derek Jacobi stars as a sleuthing medieval monk; and *Scavengers*, a futuristic game show set on a fictional space ship in which contestants face a number of challenges. ITV, which says it is halving its weekly quota of repeats from 60 hours to 30 hours, will also launch its own film awards.

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Sacked bus driver wins

A BUS driver who was sacked after being stabbed and robbed on duty was ordered by his employers to pay back the stolen cash, an industrial tribunal was told.

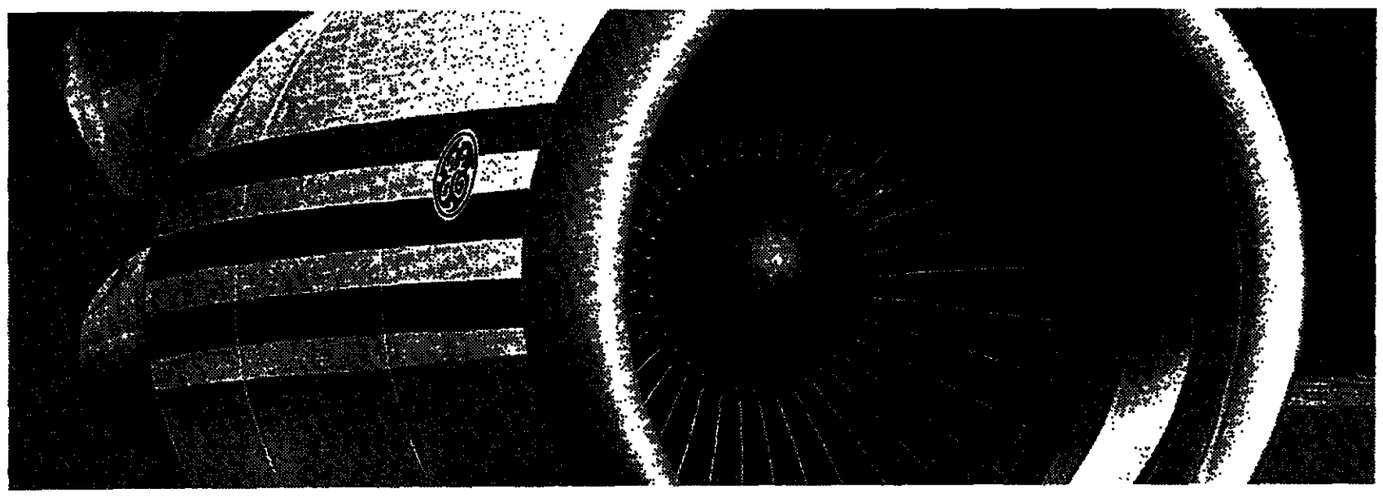
Mohammed Ashraf Din was beaten up and slashed with a carving knife by two men in April 1992. Mr Din, 29, who had been assaulted four times in three years as a bus driver, was sacked after taking 5½ months' sick leave.

He told a central London industrial tribunal that when his employers at East London Bus and Coach company fired him they demanded he repay £4 taken by the thieves and deducted £12.50 from his pay for his stolen bus pass.

The tribunal awarded Mr Din, of Manor Park, east London, £10,397 for unfair dismissal, and ordered the bus company to repay him £12.50.

TWO GIANTS.





These days the Welsh Dragon is a real high flyer since two international giants of the aero engineering industry chose Wales.

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ONE DRAGON.

WDA

THE WELSH ADVANTAGE.

Rommel's leave meant counter-attack order never came through, says paratroop historian

Hitler's tanks 'could have routed D-Day'

By Michael Horsnell

AN ORDER from German High Command that failed to reach armoured units standing by to repel an Allied invasion in 1944 might have changed the course of the liberation of Europe, it was claimed yesterday.

The controversial assertion was made by Lt Gen Sir Michael Gray, a former Colonel Commandant of The Parachute Regiment, on the eve of a veterans' invasion of the Normandy beaches for the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day.

It is being claimed by German sources whom he interviewed that, had they known about the order, they might have cut off the invasion and turned D-Day into a disaster. But the order permitting an armoured counter-attack against air landings, which started with parachute and glider drops at night, allegedly never reached the armoured units at a time when Rommel was on 24 hours' leave.

The claim was treated with considerable caution last night by senior military sources.

Lt Gen Gray, who is chairman of the Airborne Assault Normandy Trust that preserves the history of 6 Airborne Division in Normandy, conducted painstaking research among German defenders, including Col Hans von Luck, commanding officer of a German battlegroup stationed near the invasion area.

Hitler, who did not know where to expect the Allied landings, was reluctant to commit Panzer divisions to the Normandy coast, but the German high command later ordered a counter-attack in the event of air landings. Col von Luck says that this order never reached the armoured commanders and thus no immediate thrust to repel 6 Airborne Division, landing on the left flank of the Allied forces on June 6, 1944, was made. Col von Luck, who was part of a division under Rommel's command, says he had been told not to move until direct orders came.

It was 1979 before Col von Luck saw copies of two letters which General Speidal, Chief of Staff of the German Army Group B, said that there was another order. "In case of air landings, and only then, we were allowed and were ordered to attack immediately," Col von Luck said. "This order we did not know. If we had, with our strength in tanks and anti-tank weapons and infantry, we could easily have got through to the coast — the more so in that we were very familiar with the ground.

"But we had to stay where we were. We had to wait to be released and it was only in the late morning of June 6 that the corps commander ordered a counter-attack."

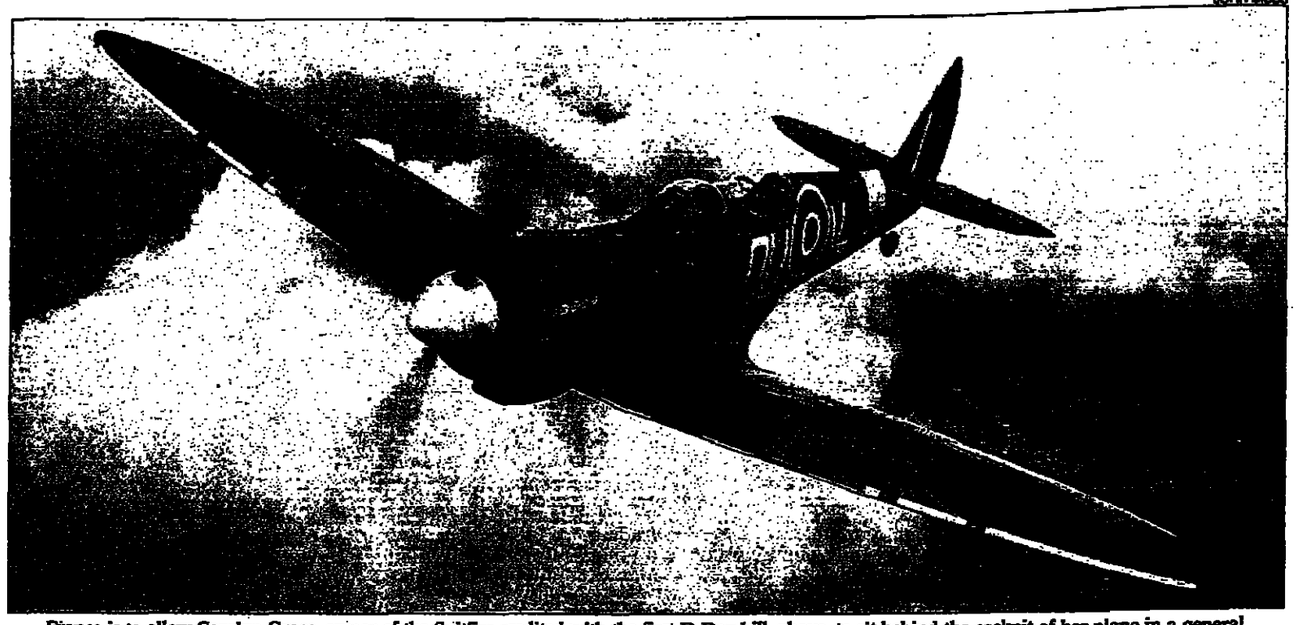
By that time 156,000 troops were landing along the Cotentin Peninsula. Lt Gen Gray, 61, said: "If von Luck's tanks had joined the action at the outset of the landings, events would certainly have been very different.

"But the whole story of Normandy is full of 'what ifs'. The decision to release the tanks was not made. If Rommel had not been on leave he would have instinctively used the German armour. You could argue this is [German] sour grapes, but there is some credibility in the story."

General Sir David Fraser, 74, whose biography of Rommel was published in November, said: "Von Luck was an able and experienced man, and Rommel had a high regard for him, but this story is an over-simplification of events."

Germans are coming, page 1
Letters, page 19

JOHN DIBBS



France is to allow Carolyn Grace, owner of the Spitfire credited with the first D-Day kill, above, to sit behind the cockpit of her plane in a general commemorative D-day fly-past on June 5. She is still waiting to hear if she is to be allowed to fly solo over the beaches on June 6

Allied deceptions were key to defeat of the Wehrmacht

By Alistair Horne

THE claims by Colonel von Luck, a senior German veteran of Normandy, go to the heart of the controversy as to who — on the enemy side — was responsible for the Wehrmacht's crushing defeat there.

Was it Hitler, always interfering with military decisions, or his commanders, von Rundstedt and Rommel? How dangerous to the Allied invasion forces could the defenders have been, had they received the right orders in time?

Thanks to the skill of elaborate Allied deception, the Germans were completely caught off-balance on D-Day. Their intelligence services were taken in by Operation Fortitude, which, through the creation of a phantom American army under the redoubtable General Patton, gave the impression that the main landing was to be in the Pas-de-Calais. As a result, powerful Panzer forces which could have intervened disastrously on D-Day were kept at bay to the northeast.

The German defence was also hamstrung by Hitler's insistence on holding back, inland, the mobile reserve of Panzer divisions demanded by Rommel, commander of Army Group "B" covering the whole invasion area. Rommel's strategy was to defeat the invasion on the beaches. He knew that once the Allies had a secure foothold, the battle would be lost to their overwhelming superiority in the air.

The Germans totally misread Allied timings. Deceived by adverse weather reports, Rommel was celebrating his wife's birthday in southern Germany on June 6; his immediate subordinate, General Dollmann, in command of the Seventh Army in Normandy, was away on manoeuvres.

The unit in the most dangerous position to attack the Allied landings was the 21st Panzer Division, in which Col von Luck was serving, and located east of Caen. It was an elite unit which had fought under Rommel in north Africa, but had been largely destroyed and reconstituted. Its commander, General Feuchtinger, was one of the Nazi faithful and chiefly experienced in organising rallies. The troops had little confidence in him. He too was absent on D-Day, with his mistress in Paris, and most of his division was away on exercises.

On the night of June 5/6, the British 6th Airborne Division effected brilliant surprise landings, seizing the critical bridge over the Orne, later renamed "Pegasus Bridge". This position was essential to the security of Montgomery's left flank, and was the key to Caen; it was also right in the midst of the 21st Panzer's area. Had the Panzer's 127 heavy tanks been ready for action, Major John Howard's few lightly armed Paras holding the bridge would almost certainly have been wiped out, and the British beachheads gravely endangered. But no concerted action by the Panzers was launched until Gen Feuchtinger returned from his date in Paris; by that time, it was "too little, too late".



Rommel: wanted to stop invasion on beaches

As it was, however, Col von Luck, the ablest tank commander on the scene, managed to stop the British seaborne infantry only three miles short of Caen. It would take the best part of the next two months, and many thousands of British and Canadian casualties, before Caen was finally taken. It might have been a very different story for the Allied landings had the Panzers been ready and in position on June 6, 1944.

☐ Alistair Horne's *The Lonely Leader; Monty 1944-45* is to be published in May by Macmillan and serialised in *The Sunday Times*. Alistair Horne will be covering the 50th D-Day anniversary for *The Times*.

Operation Party ready for action

By John Young

THE fiftieth anniversary of Operation Overlord, the greatest and most successful seaborne and airborne invasion, is about to provide the biggest excuse for a national party since the Queen's silver jubilee in 1978.

Nine heads of state or government, including the Queen and President Clinton, will be present at some or all of the official events between June 4 and 6.

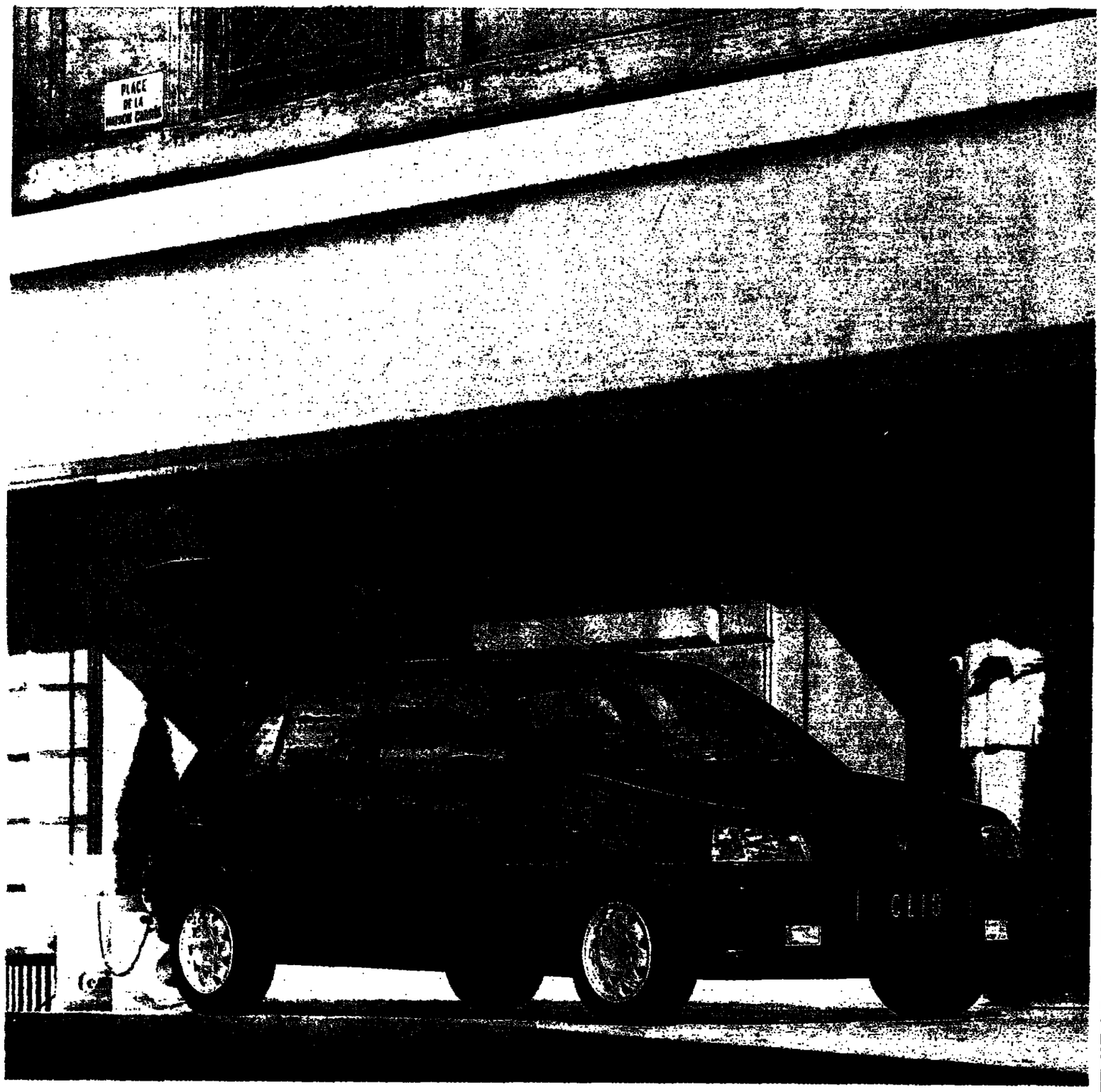
The programme begins on Saturday, June 4, with a garden party for a thousand veterans, attended by the Queen, in the grounds of Southwick House, Portsmouth, the headquarters of General Eisenhower, the supreme commander of the Allies.

The day's events will conclude with a dinner at Portsmouth Guildhall, where the Queen will also preside, for representatives of the countries, military units, civilian communities and other organisations that contributed to the D-Day operations.

On Sunday, June 5, there will be a Drumhead service, open to the public, on Southsea Common, after which a flotilla of warships, merchantmen, cruise liners, wartime liberty ships and an escort of small craft will sail for France.

Monday, June 6, will begin with a ceremony at Utah beach attended by Presidents Clinton and Mitterrand, followed by the main memorial service in Bayeux cathedral. Because of the large numbers of veterans expected in Normandy, some 10,000 from Britain alone, simultaneous services will be held at war cemeteries.

All nine heads of state and government will attend an afternoon ceremony on Omaha beach, at which the Queen will take the salute at a march-past of veterans and there will be a flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.



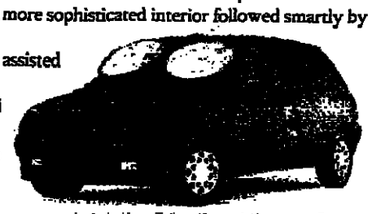
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Tory campaign managers take battle to the beaches of Normandy

Major seeks to conquer Europe by publicity

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major will get a much-needed boost in his European election campaign from the fanfare of publicity surrounding the D-Day celebrations, only three days before a poll widely seen as critical to his political survival.

Senior Tories were quick to deny suggestions that party managers were planning to exploit the re-enactment of June 6, 1944, for crude party political advantage. The celebrations, ranging from paratroopers retaking the Pegasus Bridge in Caen to Glenn Miller revivals in village halls up and down the land, were strictly non-partisan and under tight Civil Service control, they said. But they made no attempt to deny the eve-of-poll message in which an avowedly nationalistic Tory Euro-campaign will evoke memories of Britain's finest hour half a century ago.

The spectacle of the Prime Minister, alongside the Queen and President Clinton, steaming across the Channel on *Britannia*, the Royal yacht, with an escort of warships and a welcome from a grateful Francois Mitterrand on Omaha Beach, seems bound to help the Conservatives. With Douglas Hurd, egged on by most of the Cabinet and the parliamentary party, digging in his heels over European voting rights, the Tories clearly intend to campaign as the party best equipped to defend national interests and to portray their Labour and Liberal Democrat challengers as slaves to Brussels.

As one Tory insider, a veteran of the election victories of the past 15 years, said yesterday, the fortunate coincidence of the 50th anniversary of D-Day and European elections is unlikely to do Mr Major any harm, particularly if he campaigns on a nationalistic ticket.

"The Queen, the Prime Minister and President Clinton will take the salute at the naval review at Spithead. Then they will board *Britannia* and be met by President Mitterand on the Normandy beaches. Of course, it will not do Mr Major any harm, but ... the idea that the celebrations have been structured to boost the Conservatives' chances is rubbish and it is ludicrous to suggest that commemoration of the greatest military operation in modern history should be cancelled because of a few cheap shots by the media or our opponents."



Suspicions that the celebrations are being exploited for party political purposes have been fuelled by the involvement of Sir Tim Bell, Baroness Thatcher's public relations guru throughout her long reign at 10 Downing Street. Sir Tim's company, Lowe Bell Communications, is being paid £62,000 by the Department of National Heritage to mastermind the civilian side of what is intended as a national thanksgiving for the liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny. Celebrations which will run from D-Day to VE-Day the following year will cost £1 million, half of which is being spent by the British Tourist Authority in the United States.

With the Government 20 points behind Labour in the opinion polls and Mr Major the most unpopular Prime Minister since D-Day, even this orgy of flag-waving may not prevent a Canadian-style wipe-out. But as Lady Thatcher recalls in her memoirs, leaders rarely suffer from being seen on the world stage. She interrupted her 1983 and 1987 general election campaigns to attend summits of the G7 group of leading industrialised nations.

Germany joins, page 1
Letters, page 19

Fighting talk from a leader on the run

If John Major is forced out of Downing Street later this year, yesterday will be seen as a key date in his decline and fall. His decision to play the Eurosceptic card will do him and the Tory Party no good. He will quickly discover the hollowness behind yesterday's cheers in the Commons for his strongly nationalist and anti-Brussels stance. This is flawed on political and electoral, let alone foreign policy, grounds.

Mr Major's approach is intended to unify most of the Tory Party behind a patriotic, anti-centralist appeal around slogans like "fighting Britain's corner hard". This is contrasted with the charge that Labour — as well as the Liberal Democrats — would "sign away our votes, sign away our competitiveness and sign away our money", together with the jibe that John Smith is "the poodle of Brussels". But only the most shallow of Tory backbenchers could be impressed: empty-headed populists of the Jacques Arnold variety who cheer any partisan attack.

Mr Major's words may go down well at Tory supper clubs and wine and cheese parties this weekend. But yesterday's smiles on the faces of the Euro-sceptics were not of affection, but of contempt. They believe they have him on the run.

Merely as a negotiating tactic, Mr Major's language was strange, making any compromise harder to achieve at the resumed European foreign ministers' meeting on the weekend. Other European leaders must almost hanker for Baroness Thatcher's handbag diplomacy. It may be that Mr Major, though probably not Douglas Hurd, is willing to contemplate a lengthy stand-off with other countries which may delay enlargement.

That not only makes a mockery of Mr Major's talk of being "at the heart of Europe" but it will also probably not work electorally. The Tories' disastrous 1989 campaign showed the folly of a negative approach. With the turnout in the three direct elections to the European Parliament less than half the level of Westminster elections, the key is persuading your supporters to vote. In general, only the more pro-European voters tend to turn out, and the anti-Brussels approach failed last time to win over wavering and disillusioned Tories. They were given no reason to vote.

So what the Tories ought to be doing is offering a positive view of Britain's place in Europe and of the importance of having more Tory MEPs at Strasbourg. If the Tories persist in the type of rhetoric which Mr Major used yesterday, they will give ample ammunition to the Opposition parties to exploit Tory divisions, for instance, between the Westminster leadership and the bulk of Tory MEPs. Mr Major's vigorously nationalist tactics are unlikely to help the Tories on June 9, or reduce the scale of their losses.

Mr Major's adoption of such strident Euro-sceptic rhetoric underlines his vulnerability. His remarks yesterday were an act of weakness, not of strength. He will win few friends, reinforce the doubts of existing Tory opponents, and create new critics on the centre-left. Everything could, of course, turn out fine for him. A deal could be negotiated this weekend, or soon afterwards, which can presented as a "triumph" for the tough British stand. But he has unnecessarily increased the risks. Whatever happens to Mr Major later this year, yesterday's episode will do little to enhance his authority as Leader or the Tories' chances of winning the next election. He has reinforced the impression of a party desperately trying any expedient to remain in office.

PETER RIDDELL

Smith in clash over fuel bills

BY ROBERT MORGAN, POLITICAL STAFF

THE Prime Minister yesterday vigorously defended the right of gas and electricity consumers to pay their bills in advance to avoid VAT. In angry exchanges in the Commons, he brushed aside Labour protests and accused John Smith of being a "meddler" who wanted to tell people how to spend their own money.

The pre-payment of bills to avoid tax, particularly before Labour Budgets, had been a common practice for decades, he said. Labour had been so long out of office that it had become out of touch.

The Labour Leader said that John Major had revealed the Tory attitude to tax in a nutshell: "Loopholes for the better off and everyone else has to pay in full." He said it was "deeply unfair" that the better off could avoid a tax obligation that millions of others had to shoulder because they did not have the money to exploit the loophole the Government had created.

But Mr Major denied it was a loophole. The less well off would get help in advance of the increase in their bills. "That is a pre-payment Mr Smith forget to mention," he said. Mr Smith had revealed that he was "up to his old tricks" of telling other people how to spend their own money. He had failed to mention that the electricity companies had announced that prices would be lower or frozen in the next year.

The Opposition is demanding that electricty companies and British Gas pay a windfall tax on the profits from the estimated £1 billion they will get as customers rush to beat the April 1 deadline.

From the beginning of next month, VAT will be charged at 8 per cent on bills and standing charges. It will rise to 17.5 per cent in 12 months' time. The companies have been encouraging consumers to pay in advance and some are reported to have paid thousands of pounds already.

Clarke defends April tax rises

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, the Chancellor, claimed yesterday that the recovery was strong enough to take next month's tax rises in its stride, provided inflation remained low.

If he had not taken action last November the Government would now be contemplating further tax rises this year, Mr Clarke said in an article in the Commons *House* magazine.

Mr Clarke said that, since the Budget, inflation had persistently turned out lower than he and other commentators had predicted. Today's figures, which are expected to show a significant fall in the annual rate, will confirm the low level. "That can give us real confidence that the economy is fundamentally sound, and that if we take care to keep inflation low the prospects are brighter than they have been for a generation.

"The Budget is an essential milestone along that road. That is why most commentators agree with me that the economy is strong enough to take the tax increases in its stride, and that we can look forward to rising prosperity in the years ahead."

Writing in the same magazine Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, claimed that the Government could no longer win the argument on the economy because it did not understand why its policies had failed.

"Labour's claim to economic competence rests on our clear view of the causes of national economic decline," Mr Brown said.

A skills revolution was needed at the centre of economic policy, he added.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Coal Industry Bill, third reading.
Lords (2.30): Debate on sharing the cost of UN peacekeeping operations.



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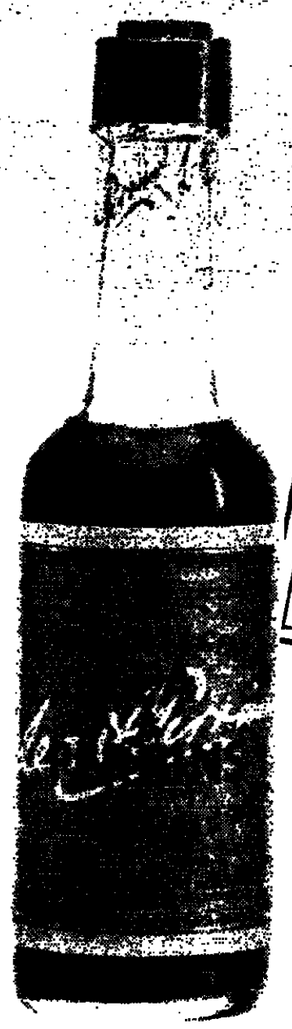
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Right-wing economics professor writes privatisation prescription for ailing nation

Berlusconi's man prepares Thatcher medicine for Italy

FROM TOM RHODES IN MILAN

IF SILVIO Berlusconi and his alliance of the right come to power in Italy this weekend, Antonio Martino will be forced to forsake the cloistered life of academe and take on the most daunting post in any Italian government, that of Finance Minister.

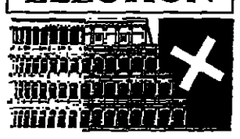
Sitting in the Milanese offices of Signor Berlusconi's Forza Italia party yesterday, however, the urbane professor, dean of political science at Luiss University in Rome, appeared not the least flustered by such a task. The media magnate has, for the first time, given Professor Martino the opportunity to put forward a programme for political change that is, in his own words, more radical than that espoused by Margaret Thatcher in 1979.

The economics he learnt under Milton Friedman at the University of Chicago combined with those of the late Friedrich Hayek lie at the heart of the Forza Italia programme. He has just finished a biography of Friedman, with whom he remains in contact. He was previously the youngest president of the radical Montpelerin Society, an economic think-tank founded by Hayek.

"I have always been strongly pro free market. If you like, I am a classical liberal Whig," he said. "When I met Berlusconi, I realised he was in favour of my views and had the ability to give them legs."

In practical terms, he is also fervently against the ideal of a federal Europe, in favour of reducing the tax burden and creating new jobs, and wants almost total privatisation of the public sector. His father, Gaetano Martino, a former Italian Foreign Minister, was a signatory to the Treaty of Rome in 1957 which, he says, has given him both impeccable political and European credentials. As a long-standing member of the anti-federalist Bruges Group, Professor Martino said he found his ideas almost entirely in keeping with more sceptical members of the British Parliament. "I believe that trade unites us, but politics divides us. The single market is a gigantic achievement and it should be strengthened," he said. "They even have one for quails' eggs — have they ever asked the quails?"

ITALIAN ELECTION



Although Professor Martino said he was in favour of a single currency, he admitted he now saw a parallel currency similar to the hard ecu policy as the best way forward, a line he feels would not deter Britain.

On the domestic front, however, Professor Martino will certainly face his greatest challenge. Italy currently runs a national debt of 114 per cent of GDP, the highest in Western Europe, and has 11.3 per cent unemployment.

In the meantime, pre-electoral rifts are already emerging between Forza Italia, the Northern League and the neo-Fascist National Alliance which together form the coalition of the right. Simultaneously, the manifesto put forward by Forza Italia — under his direction — has been accused of being lacking in substance.

Many Italians do not believe Signor Berlusconi's blithe promises of one million new jobs and are questioning the revenue consequences of his flat-rate tax plan of 30 per cent. The Democratic Party of the Left has attacked his plans to privatise pensions, saying that contributions will almost double.

Other critics are asking how Signor Berlusconi can attempt to run a country when his own holding company Fininvest has debts of at least 3,800 billion Lira (£1.5 billion). In answer, Professor Martino, said his vision for an economic miracle in Italy could not hope to change overnight a system of corruption that had existed for decades. He wants to:

- ☐ Simplify local government, where currently 350,000 city councillors belong to 8,300 municipalities, and so improve fiscal responsibility and reduce costs;
- ☐ Take the taxing power away from Rome and give it to the local authorities;
- ☐ Introduce a single rate of tax; prevent excessive taxation for large families and exempt the poor;
- ☐ Create new jobs by exempting employers from labour costs for a minimum of three years;
- ☐ Privatise the state pension and encourage people to opt out; privatise schools and the national health service.

Mafia influence

Rome: The Mafia controls about 400,000 votes, 10 per cent of the electorate, in Sicily, according to a report published yesterday by the independent Eurispes research institute (Philip Willan writes). Eurispes said the Cosa Nostra had 45,000 full-time members and an annual turnover of more than £40 billion. It said the revenue came mainly from drug smuggling and protection rackets



Antonio Martino expounding his new financial policy for the Italian right

Rebel newspaper sells every copy

INDRO Montanelli, 84, doyen of Italian journalism, yesterday launched *La Voce*, his new daily newspaper, and saw it almost immediately sell out (John Phillips writes).

The sprightly Signor Montanelli decided two months ago to create the paper after he resigned as editor-in-chief of *Il Giornale* of Milan because he would not bow to pressure from Silvio Berlusconi, its proprietor and leader of the Forza Italia party, to support his political ambitions. *La Voce* sold all of its initial print run of 445,000 copies by 8.30 am.

A second edition of 70,000 was being printed for sale yesterday afternoon. Signor Montanelli wrote a front-page editorial entitled "What were we saying?" Many journalists from *Il Giornale* decamped to join him in his new venture, which had to be scrambled together in readiness for next week's general election.

Also on the front page was a telegram of good wishes from Frank Sinatra, whose nickname, "The Voice", is the English version of the newspaper's title.

Magnate lines up band of novices

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A FEW leading Italian public figures have rallied to Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia banner and he would have to rely heavily on his neo-Fascist, Northern League and Radical Party allies if he were asked to form a Cabinet.

The media magnate has not recruited politicians with Cabinet experience. Instead, colourful personalities brighten his rallies. Most prominent are Tiziana "Titti" Parenti, a magistrate; General Luigi Caligaris, Signor Berlusconi's expert on military matters; Antonio Martino, the main

NEW

Forza Italia economist; and Professor Giuliano Urbani, a political scientist.

Umberto Bossi, leader of the Northern League, has pledged he would never enter a government led by Signor Berlusconi. However, this may be a negotiating stance.

Gianfranco Fini, leader of the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), would be offered a prominent Cabinet post. Victory for Signor Berlusconi could see Marco Pannella, the veteran libertarian campaigner and Radical Party leader, try to realise his dreams to become Foreign Minister. Signor Pannella's adherence to the Forza Italia anti-communist crusade surprised many liberal Italians who supported him in his battles for legalisation of abortion and divorce.

Signora Parenti would expect to become the Justice or even Interior Minister. She was a magistrate in the pool of Milanese investigators who exposed Italy's huge corruption scandal two years ago.

Franco Zeffirelli, the film director and a candidate for Forza Italia in Sicily's second city, Catania, hopes election would lead to him crowning his career as a Culture Minister.

Campaign centres on tax reform and jobs

FROM OUR ROME CORRESPONDENT

DISMANTLING the public sector, radical tax reform and a pledge to create a million jobs have been the main planks of Silvio Berlusconi's programme during the Italian election campaign.

On foreign policy, his party, Forza Italia, has adopted a Thatcherite-style approach to the European Union. Critics have focused on the irridentist claims of Giancarlo Fini, his neo-Fascist ally, to parts of Croatia and Slovenia lost by Italy during the Second World War. However, most observers believe that Signor Fini's National Alliance would not insist on these in the event of Signor Berlusconi becoming the Prime Minister.

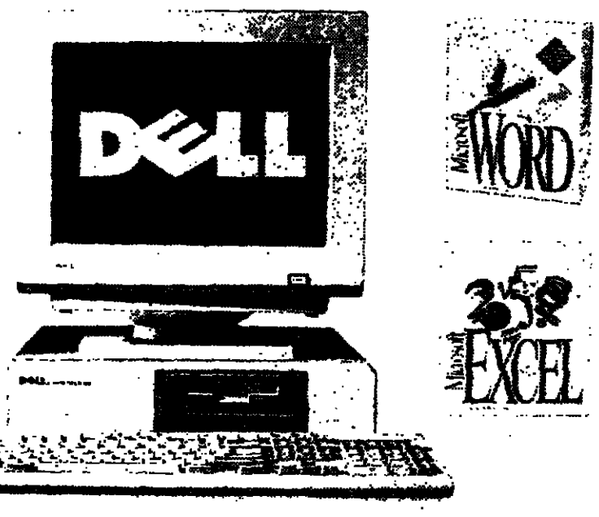
Deregulation of the economy is a key theme in Signor Berlusconi's economic policies. He has also promised to streamline the fiscal system, reducing the number of taxes from 200 to 12. A proposal to introduce a uniform income tax of about 30 per cent brought howls of protest

POLICIES

from the left and harsh criticism from experts. Like most parties from across the spectrum which have responded to the Northern League message, Forza Italia supports considerable devolution of tax-raising to regional and local authorities. At the same time, it lays emphasis on national solidarity.

Signor Berlusconi argues that his experience in running his vast Fininvest empire qualifies him to be Prime Minister. In practice, political experts believe that any government will be obliged to follow closely the main lines of economic reform laid down by Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Prime Minister, in order to bring under control the huge budget deficit and public debt.

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Aid flight reopens Tuzla airport

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN SARAJEVO

IN WHAT was presented by the United Nations as another significant milestone on the way to restoring order in Bosnia, Tuzla airport was reopened yesterday after nearly two years.

The breakthrough came as negotiations continued between commanders of the UN force and Serb commanders to resolve the crisis over Serb weapons, discovered this week inside the 12-mile exclusion zone around Sarajevo.

An inaugural flight to Tuzla, the first by a fixed-wing aircraft to the city since the Serbs shelled the airport and forced its closure in May 1992, touched down carrying senior UN, aid agency and military officials including Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy to the former Yugoslavia. As he stepped on to the tarmac, which is guarded by eight Danish Leopard tanks, Mr Akashi told reporters: "For the people of Tuzla and the entire population of Bosnia-Herzegovina the opening of the airport means the arrival of peace at last."

Tuzla is expected to receive an airlift of supplies shortly, and is regarded by the UN as the gateway to northern Bosnia, where many civilians have been cut off by fighting.

It is clear that, although the region around the Muslim-held city, which has a population of around 465,000, remains deprived, the situation is not as bad as it was in the winter. This is partly because of the success of the Croat-Muslim agreement in central Bosnia which is allowing aid to move north much more freely.

The reopening of the airport is perhaps of more political importance, following as it does an intense round of diplomacy by the Russians, and the threat, at one point, by Nato of bombing in an attempt to force the issue.

Major Simon MacDowall, the senior spokesman for UN forces in Sarajevo, said the location of an arsenal of Serb tanks, artillery and mortars just inside the exclusion zone was due to a dispute over the exact location of the centre of Sarajevo from where the zone is measured. He said he was confident disagreement would be resolved.



Akashi: opening means "the arrival of peace"

Socialist chief fights against Stasi taint

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

Manfed Stolpe, the beleaguered Social Democratic leader of a key east German state, yesterday fought off accusations about his connections with the Communist secret police and tried to keep his government afloat.

The Prime Minister of Brandenburg found himself yesterday propping up a lame-duck government after the Green Party withdrew from his three-party coalition. Herr Stolpe's Social Democrats and the small Free Democrats will probably continue to rule as a minority government until new elections are held.

The upheaval in the east is a bad omen for the Social Democrats in Bonn, who have been hoping to increase dramatically their share of the vote in the five new provinces. Opinion polls now suggest the SPD will gain heavily, but will not necessarily be able to form workable governments.

Herr Stolpe used to help and advise the Protestant church in East Germany. When his file, codenamed "Secretary", was discovered in Stasi archives after unification, Herr Stolpe explained that he constantly mediated with the authorities to assist the church, but he was in no sense a police stooge. A former Stasi officer, Klaus Rossberg, has now testified that he presented Herr Stolpe with a good service medal in a Stasi safe house in Berlin in 1978. If true, that would force Herr Stolpe's resignation and seriously embarrass the Social Democrats as they embark on eight months of elections.

"Hundreds of nurses, policemen and other minor civil servants have been dismissed because of very low-level contacts with the Stasi," said a CDU politician. "Why should Herr Stolpe be an exception?"

However, the tougher the criticism of Herr Stolpe, the more his popular support seems to grow, reflecting a general east German weariness with the whole Stasi issue. In a day of hectic meetings, the Greens leader refused to bow to pressure within his own party to withdraw his allegations against the Prime Minister. Two Green ministers in Herr Stolpe's Cabinet said they would leave the Green faction but seemed ready to continue as ministers under the controversial Prime Minister.



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Were we too poor for the Bomb?

Clinton's envoy argued the Navy's Polaris would not deter Russia

WILLIAM Crowe, the former chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff who has been nominated by President Clinton to be the next American ambassador in London, once cast serious doubts on the value of Britain's nuclear deterrent.

His reservations were expressed in a PhD thesis, *Policy Roots of the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1963*, he wrote in 1965 when he was a 40-year-old commander in the US Navy. The typescript can still be found on a lower shelf at the back of the Pentagon library.

Admiral Crowe conducted his research while he lived in London for five months during a political fellowship at Princeton. His more ingrained and conventional navy views were changing under an onslaught of intellectual analysis and becoming more tolerant and liberal. He reckoned that the ballistic missiles on the Royal Navy's four Polaris submarines were of marginal relevance. He argued that a country faced by such severe economic problems as Britain should be demanding more of a return on its investment of £300 million plus operating costs. "The abandonment of nuclear weapons would release funds which could be profitably employed elsewhere," he wrote.



Crowe: coming back to London

It is odd to reflect that 29 years ago, as a mid-rank officer, the future admiral shared an opinion held by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, then at its height. Commander Crowe was taking a gamble with his career. He was following an academic route which in the US Navy had traditionally foreclosed any hope of rising above the rank of captain. In his case, though, the broadening of outlook eventually enabled him to vault to the top.

In his thesis, he traced how the British government of 1960 was forced to cancel Blue Streak, the missile originally intended to replace RAF bombers for carrying nuclear warheads, and decided to buy Skybolt missiles from the United States. When Skybolt was cancelled, President Kennedy offered Polaris to Harold Macmillan, the prime minister, thereby restoring the Royal Navy to a central position in Britain's defence.

The Polaris force gave Britain an arsenal of 64 missiles which the then Commander Crowe agreed was a "respectable nuclear punch" but in terms of deterring the Soviet Union was "probably insignificant". In his view, there was a "unrealistic ring" to the argument that Britain had to possess nuclear weapons to avoid nuclear blackmail and to give Europe an independent means of deterring a Soviet attack. "It defies reason to suppose that the British would be willing to risk total extinction in return for the damage that 64 or fewer Polaris missiles could inflict on Soviet Russia."

The main advantage to Britain had been in establishing a relationship with the United States for exchanging nuclear secrets and in gaining some say on potential targets for nuclear obliteration. Possession of nuclear weapons had also given Britain a voice in disarmament negotiations, said the future admiral, but this advantage was soon to prove illusory as the Americans and Soviets began direct arms control talks which excluded Britain and France.

Commander Crowe concluded that Britain did not gain the voice in world affairs it desired when becoming a nuclear power.

IAN BRODIE



JEREMY NICHOLL/MATZ

Bare-faced chic in Red Square: western beauty aids and fashions are selling like hot blinis, while traditional Russian treatments are ignored

Russia's cosmetic revolution

Versace has arrived in Moscow, where the women are making up for lost time. **Anne McElvoy** reports

You have to hand it to Raisa Gorbachev. She has been out of the limelight for two years, she has suffered from a succession of illnesses and severe depression, but she has never lost the knack of rubbing her countrywomen up the wrong way. The latest news that she has had a face-lift has returned her to the top of the "Most Resented" charts, which in a culture that boasts the saying "I hope my neighbour's cow dies" is quite something.

Raisa is an outstandingly vain woman. Blessed with unremarkable looks, she was lulled into the belief that she was a stunner by the Western media, which were so amazed to find the wife of a Kremlin leader who was not a vast-hipped peasant woman that they have never accepted since that she is an ordinary Russian mortal.

Her shopping trips in Italy and France became a political liability for her husband, her hair was restyled daily, and her shameless hints induced Arab leaders to part with an awful lot of grand jewellery in the name of international friendship.

Russia has its own curious view of vanity as virtue and vice both at once. Young women are expected to wear layers of lipstick, powder and paint in primary colours which, piled on to sweet, round, blue-eyed Slavic faces, make them look like *matrushka* dolls. But girls who come from the deep provinces (the Altai, south of Siberia, in Raisa's case) and swan around with airs and graces in the capital are frowned upon.

There is even a damning phrase for unlovely, overdressed and made-up young women of the communist period: *Sovbarishnyie* — or Soviet Misses. It is the sort of comment you can still hiss malevolently at the receptionists who refuse to look up from phoning their friends and painting their nails to direct you to the right office.

Face-lifts, condemned by the Orthodox Church as interference with the will of God, are available in Moscow and came to be a valuable source of hard currency in the *perestroika* era. But the habit is still considered alien and most of the takers are foreigners, who can rest assured that they are hardly likely to meet anyone they know from the office while they are wandering round a remote Moscow suburb with a bandage round their head.

At the Institute of Beauty, prices for nips and tucks start from 200,000 roubles (£800) "for those with small faces and small problems" a spokeswoman said. A more substantial job costs 800,000 roubles (£2,400).

Traditional beauty care is a tad cheaper. Muscovite women keep their faces soft through the ravages of winter by means of smearing on clear honey while sitting in the dry sauna. Looming cellulite on the thighs is drubbed away with coarser honey mixed with salt. Backs are rendered rosy by a beating with a bunch of fragrant birch leaves and pine oil.

Hardier souls use pan scrubbers on their legs to perk up circulation. Manicures and pedicures are thorough and good value, although it is worth avoiding the home-produced nail-varnish which takes so long to dry that it may well turn out to be a close cousin of industrial paint.

With the exception of the pan scrubbers, I have tried Russia beauty care and found it pleasant and enhancing. Emerging from the *banya* with soft skin and trimmed cuticles for the sum total of 7,000 roubles (£3.50) has always given me a buzz of thrifty pleasure.

But these days the desire to spend, spend, spend is far more powerful than the instinct to pursue a bargain. While the *banya*, with its natural cosmetic delights, is half empty you can queue for up to an hour to enter the Soapberry beauty store in the GUM arcade together with the *jeunesse dorée* and shell out a fortune buying honey, birch and pine potions presented in dinky little bottles with a foreign label on them.

The purchasing power of women is making itself felt in Russia — this week Versace opens its doors, its vulgar extravagance perfectly suited to prevailing taste among the local millionaires. Estée Lauder and Christian Dior already dispense their unguents in glitzy shops amid the puddles and chaos of the city centre. *Cosmopolitan* magazine appears in Russian next month, offering its readers fashion pages, lists of stockists and cosmetic tips.

"There is far more disposable income around in Russia than people realise," says its editor Ellen Verbeek, who says she is targeting young, single women, perhaps with jobs in western companies. "This generation, unlike their mothers will stay single well into their twenties and enjoy spending money on looks and clothes."

In the sauna tea-room yesterday, they were showing Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*. In one scene Ms Roberts returns to a clothes shop where the assistants had refused to serve her when she was a prostitute, and flaunts dishes her new possessions. My honey-smeared neighbours in their dressing gowns and plastic sandals cheered and applauded this display of *arrivisme*. Maybe Raisa was simply ahead of her time.

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THE TIMES

The party of short cuts

Policies? What aspiring ministers should worry about is their hair

When Margaret Thatcher summoned Nigel Lawson to Number 10 Downing Street to offer him the Chancellorship she gave him only one piece of advice. "Nigel," she said. "You must get your hair cut this afternoon."

Greg Knight, who was made MP for Derby North in 1983, suffered a similar fate. He got more and more frustrated languishing on the backbenches until his friends pointed out that Mrs Thatcher would never contemplate promoting a man with a beard. As soon as he shaved it off he was promoted to the whips' office.

Lady Thatcher, it seems, was right to distrust hirsute MPs. Forget tax promises, VAT on fuel, rail privatisation or even incompetence: hair is one of the most vital factors in choosing one's voting affiliations.

Recent research carried out in America for the Democrat party shows that unruly locks receive 4 per cent fewer votes than a short back-and-sides, and bearded candidates fare even worse, receiving 5 per cent fewer votes than clean-shaven opponents.

Of course American politicians have always taken their looks a little more seriously than their British counterparts. But now that it is often impossible to tell which side of the House a Burton's suit comes from, the shape of one's nape is becoming increasingly important.

With both the local and European elections on the horizon, Tory ministers are going to great lengths to make sure that their hair never hits their neckline, and the more ambitious are going for the closest crops.

Few go to the barbers in the House of Commons any more. Even though it is subsidised, it doesn't give the smooth finish that Tory MPs hanker after.



Heseltine's mane has been tamed and tinted yellow

Trumpers in Mayfair is the place, with prices starting at £16.50. The 115-year-old establishment is graced by William Waldegrave and the chairman of the party, Sir Norman Fowler. Most important, senior manager Ian Matthews cuts Mr Major's hair. In his schooldays, Mr Major's forelock had a curl in it and in his wedding pictures he had sideburns. But as Prime Minister his hair is determinedly short and he has become so attached to his barber that he has invited him to Chequers.

Peter Lilley and Michael Portillo, clean-cut role models for the young right-wingers, spend the most time at the barbers. Unlike his policies, which lean distinctly to the right, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's double-barrelled quiff doesn't quite know where to go. But Mr Portillo has finally managed to get his cow-lick under control, and his new shorter cuts take away any hint of rebelliousness.

> Faustian, rugged or ratty, facial hair is a no-go area

Michael Heseltine has the most challenging hair because he has a double-crown which sprouts from two places. But after his heart attack he went to considerable efforts to tame his mane and even dyed it a jaunty yellow for effect.

William Waldegrave recently trimmed his hair before the Scott enquiry and gained instant gravitas. Even Kenneth Clarke, who insists on wearing suede shoes, makes an effort to keep his locks in trim.

Facial hair is another no-go area. Be it fancy or faustian, rugged or ratty, a bristling jawline is not trusted by voters — which may account for some of Labour's past problems. "You see a man with facial hair and you think one of three things — church, bohemia or layabout beatnik," said one Tory MP. "With a bearded man you are always worried that his breakfast toast may still be lurking in those bristles."

The Tory cabinet gets round the problem by being beardless. The Labour front benches sport several, the most extraordinary being Robin Cook's, which is ginger and makes him look like a fiery dragon. Only two of the Tory MPs have beards, Jerry Hayes and Nirj Deva. Neither holds ministerial office.

The black-bearded David Blunkett, shadow health secretary says: "Tory MPs have more time on their hands to shave. I don't think we would win votes by shaving off our beards. I think people respect men who look like men."

Moustaches are also dodgy. Bristly, butch ones look good in wartime but otherwise they are not a vote-winner and make most MPs look like Dickensian bullies. Sideburns are even worse. They are the sign of a dandy, preening ruffian and narcisist.

"A good rule of thumb," said one well-dressed Tory MP, "is to avoid wearing anything you see on a pop star."

ALICE THOMSON

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY

Why did Hollyw

The Spiel grew

3 NIGHTS (B)

3 NIGHTS (W) & (FP)

3 NIGHTS (B) & (FP)

3 NIGHTS (HB) & (W)

Leisure Breaks

Why did Hollywood keep its most successful director waiting so long for his Oscar? **Ben Macintyre** reports

The day Spielberg grew up

Steven Spielberg once remarked: "I dream for a living." Those dreams have made Spielberg into the most successful film-maker of all time — spun into tales that reached into the hearts and wallets, if not the minds, of millions. His list of film credits is a route-map through American popular culture over the past two decades: *Jaws*, *E.T.*, *Indiana Jones*. Each box-office smash confirmed his status as the most popular film-maker alive, the director with the Midas touch.

Yet, until Monday night, when *Schindler's List* won seven Academy Awards and Spielberg carried off the prizes for best picture and best director, he had never held an Oscar in his hands — a fact he registered, pointedly, from the podium.

Some argued that the academy's refusal to confer its ultimate accolade hitherto was a reflection of anti-Semitism, others claimed that Spielberg was simply too rich and too commercial to warrant Oscar prestige.

The real reason is probably more obscure. Spielberg's dreams were the fantasies of childhood: frightening sometimes, ultimately consoling and universally comprehensible. Hollywood does not like to be reminded that its greatest successes are fundamentally immature and calculating, an exercise of the emotions and the imagination but seldom of the intellect.

"I want people to love my movies and I'll be a whore to get them into the theatres," Spielberg said. Behind the paint and glitter, Hollywood likes to think of itself as a nice, clean-living girl; it was offended by that implication, and Spielberg was snubbed.

It is hard to imagine a more absolute (and, perhaps, astute) contrast than that between Spielberg's two latest films. *Jurassic Park*, which won three Oscars on Monday, employed the old Spielberg ingredients to innovative effect, becoming the most successful movie ever. *Schindler's List*, with its searing black and white portrayal of moral strength in a sewer of human cruelty and frailty, offered an utterly different vision.

Spielberg's simple and contented dreams became, briefly, a traumatic nightmare and with obvious relief Hollywood has lavished praise as never before. The film story of Oskar Schindler, the greedy, self-indulgent businessman and rake who saved the lives of a thousand Jews, has attracted vast critical acclaim, much of it richly deserved.

Spielberg has been hailed as "the most universal director on planet earth" (*The Village Voice*). The very contrast between this film and his earlier, more commercial work has redoubled the enthusiasm. *Schindler's List*, destined to have a permanent place in memory, will earn something better," wrote Janet Maslin in *The New York Times*.

For millions of people, particularly in America, where even the history of living memory is often distant and ignored, Spielberg has made the Holocaust real, tangible and adequately if not definitively awful. Forgotten in the deafening and righteous chorus of applause is the fact that Spielberg has owned the rights to Thomas Keneally's Booker Prize-winning novel since 1982. For more than a decade, while he gave us plastic sharks, plastic space aliens, plastic dinosaurs and plastic sentiments, Spielberg had in his pocket a story made equally of gold and granite. Why did he take so long to use it?

> He kept in his pocket for a decade a story made equally of gold and granite

The story of Spielberg's personal transformation from populist showman to film-maker of conscience is, in a way, as moving as his subject's evolution from debauched entrepreneur to saviour, and just as unlikely. "I wasn't old enough to make this movie in 1982," Spielberg, now, 46, said in a recent interview. "I had to figure out what my place was in the world . . . I was a kind of political atheist."

Spielberg has often recalled how, growing up in Arizona, he backed away from his Jewish heritage, blocking out the Holocaust (in which some of his relatives perished) and longing to be an inconspicuous gentile boy. As a child he was acutely embarrassed that his was the only house in the street without Christmas lights; now his wife, Kate Capshaw, has converted to Judaism so that their children can be brought up in a single faith.

Spielberg has portrayed the making of *Schindler's List* as a personal odyssey in search of his Jewish roots, a quest overlayed with guilt from his failure to make the journey earlier.

The film-maker has been criticised for taking on an almost messianic mantle as the plaudits pile up. Accepting his Oscars on Monday, he offered thanks to "the six million who can't be watching this among the one billion watching this telecast tonight . . . In so many American schools, the Holocaust really is a footnote in the history books."

Spielberg is not the best or first proclaimer of that massive, indelible injustice (the writer Primo Levi must retain that honour), yet he is and will remain the most influential, thanks to his own supple universality and the overwhelming power of his medium.

That fact is made more poignant because his self-appointed task as moral educator sits uncomfortably on this shy, inspired billionaire with the low-brow instincts and Everyman baseball cap. He is better at being escapist than portentous, which only makes his maladroit off-screen moralising appear more genuine.

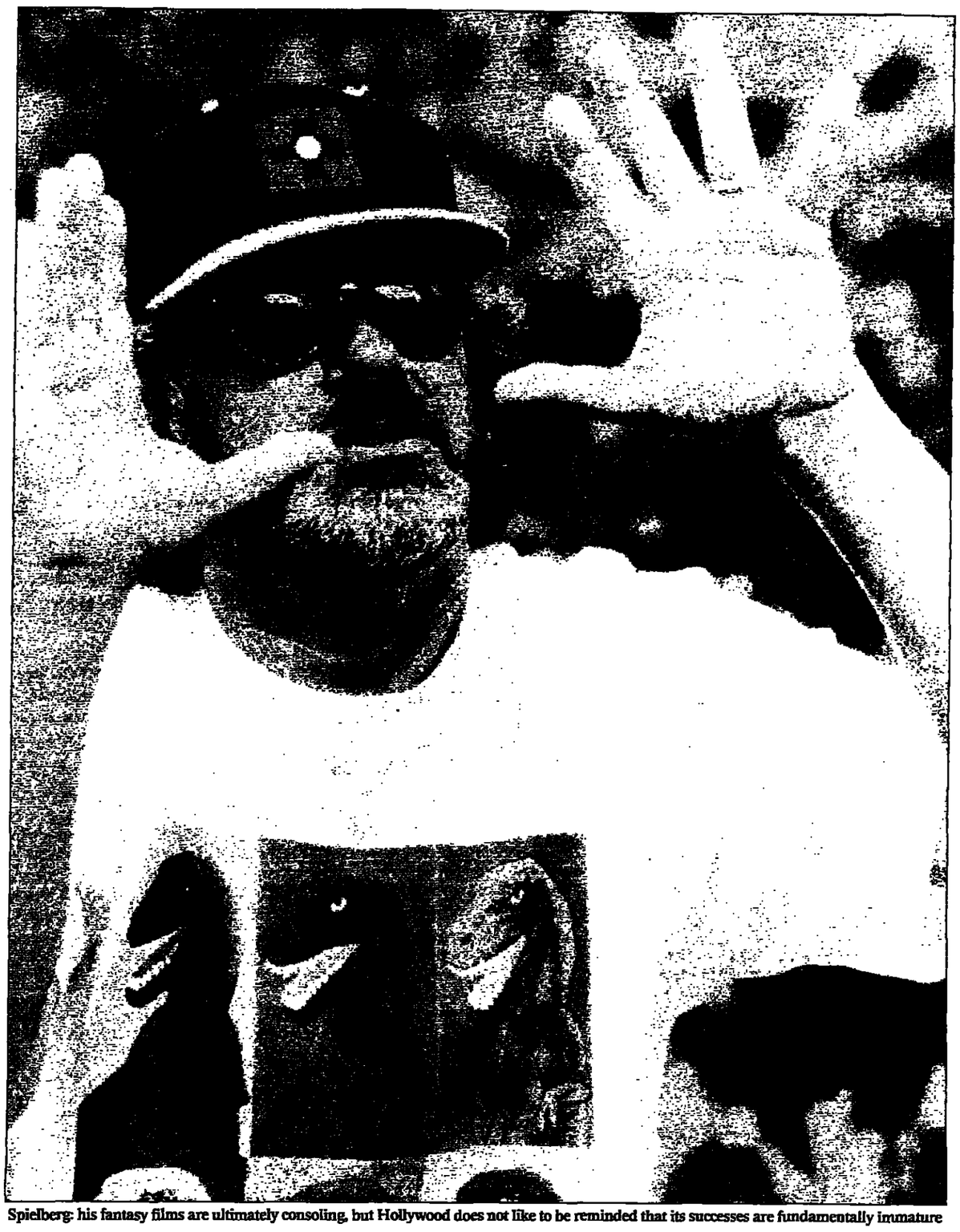
The American film industry is ripe with cant, of which the Oscar ceremony is usually the most extreme expression. *Schindler's List* cannot escape that, and there is sneaking suspicion that Spielberg has helped to make the most ghastly episode in modern history into a voguish fashion.

The Academy Awards have always provided the arbiters of modern film culture with an opportunity for moralising and Spielberg's supporters, colleagues and even rivals are falling over each other, and him, to show that they, too, care and understand about the Holocaust. Some of those rallying to his standard have brought with them the strong odour of freshly-mined sanctity.

Many good films and a few great performances were nominated for Monday's awards, yet this year's Oscars were really about one film and two, not wholly different and contradictory men: Spielberg and Schindler. Objective criticism (never a crucial factor on these occasions) may have evaporated, but this is still better than hearing the usual parade of suspects offering thanks to mother, agent or God for smoothing the way to a statuette.

With a single movie Steven Spielberg has changed himself, Hollywood and perhaps even America. True, they will all probably change back again, but it was a salutary moment.

Whatever the artistic merits of *Schindler's List*, which can now be debated with a clear eye after the breathy Oscar hype, this is a rare, perhaps unique achievement, and a remarkable testament to the fact that faith, and film, can move mountains.



Spielberg: his fantasy films are ultimately consoling, but Hollywood does not like to be reminded that its successes are fundamentally immature

OSCAR FACTS

- Seven Oscars from 12 nominations is not a bad return for *Schindler's List*, and Steven Spielberg knows that as well as anyone: his 1985 film *The Color Purple* shares an ignominious record with *The Turning Point* (1977): 11 nominations and not a single award.
- **Tommy Lee Jones** was a surprise winner of Best Supporting Actor, but he worked harder for his award than Anthony Quinn did in 1956. Playing Gauguin to Kirk Douglas's Van Gogh in *Lust For Life*, Quinn was on screen for just nine minutes.
- *Gone With The Wind* was the most popular of all Best Picture winners, with 198.5 million tickets sold. Its closest rival is *The Sound of Music*, which has sold 112 million tickets. But *Schindler's List* has grossed $60 million in the US so far, and $90 million worldwide, making it one of the most successful of recent winners.
- **Steven Spielberg** had to wait a long time for his recognition. All-time worst losers, though, are Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton, who share the record of seven nominations without a win.
- At least Spielberg has won an award, but he has a long way to go if, like Jack Nicholson, he wants to beat **Walt Disney's** personal record for most Oscars. Walt won 32.
- This year's winners, as always, will pledge not to sell their statuette. In 1988, though, the 1951 Best Picture Oscar was sold to a Swiss dealer for $15,760, and last year an anonymous bidder paid $510,000 for **Vivien Leigh's** *Gone With The Wind* Oscar. Winners can sell the award back to the Academy for $10.
- **Anna Paquin**, at 11, is the youngest Oscar-winner since Tatum O'Neal, who was only ten when she won Best Supporting Actress for *Paper Moon* in 1974.
- *Schindler's List* is the first black and white film to win a Best Picture Oscar since *The Apartment* in 1960.
- When a disaffected scriptwriter substituted his dog's name, P.H. Vazak, for his own in the credits for *Greystoke* in 1984 he nearly created Academy history. The dog was nominated, but unfortunately did not win.

GILES COREN

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Breeding ignorance

What can parents do at home to make sure their children master the three Rs at school?

The latest, upwardly revised estimates of national rates of functional illiteracy and innumeracy are bound to put middle-class parents into a spin. How, they will ask, can we be sure our little darlings are not shaping up to join the 20 per cent of young adults identified by the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit as being, in effect, functionally unemployable? Just how do so many children get through 11 years of compulsory schooling without even reaching the standards expected of the average primary school leaver?

The short, cynical answer is that if the parents are well educated, then their children will be in the clear. Regardless of what schools they attended, hardly any of the low scorers in this survey had a parent with a degree or a nursing or teaching qualification.

Conversely, the parents who won't be worried by this survey are the ones who ought to be. The only reason we have discovered a couple of million more illiterates than when we last looked is that this is the first time we have actually tested them. Previous ALBSU surveys depended on self-assessment, and we now find that 40 per cent of those with abysmal scores didn't realise that they had problems.

Quaintly, when this cohort of 21-year-olds was asked at the age of ten about difficulties with reading and writing it was the children of professional parents who had both the highest scores and the greatest anxieties about their spelling. Nearly half the children of unskilled parents scored badly in number work, but only 5 per cent realised they had problems with it.

Teachers are aware of all this. Some use the knowledge ruthlessly, either to justify lowering their expectations to match those of the parents in their grim catchment area or, at the other end of the spectrum, to recruit anxious fee-payers as their assistants. A forthright friend of mine who works in a highly competitive boys' school always tells parents: "Don't expect me to teach them their tables, that's your job. Ten minutes in the car on the way to school every morning, please, and if James can't manage next Monday's test it'll be your fault." It works like a charm.

In schools like this you find parents not only making sure any homework is done but actually clamouring for more. You even find them paying for after-school reinforcement, either through tutors or self-help schemes, without regarding the need to do so as an adverse reflection on the school. In educational terms, parents like these are worth half a dozen extra teachers.

It is clear from the ALBSU report that, as we know from research elsewhere as well as simple common sense, numeracy problems can often be traced right back to the early years of primary school. Maths is hierarchical, and if you don't fully grasp the four rules or the absolutely basic concept of hundreds, tens and units you will never get on top of decimals, percentages, working out the change owed you in a shop, your hire purchase dues, the outrageous rate of interest you are being charged, or whether the £250 jacket with the 12.5 per cent discount is cheaper than the £200 one with a third off. If you missed the relevant lessons, or couldn't follow them, you've had it.



MARGOT NORMAN

Obviously these fundamental skills get reinforced periodically through the primary school, but by secondary school an awful lot of children have effectively missed the boat.

Judging by this survey, girls miss it more often than boys. They have a terrible time trying to work out areas, whether expressed as the amount of carpet they need for their bedroom or as a geometrical shape on the page. They are presumably also suckers for being short-changed and, although their unemployment rate is better than that of the boys, they actually need to keep track of every pound. Perhaps they also get less out-of-school practice through gambling. The best maths teachers I know always use betting odds as the occasional inducement to get results.

Inevitably, even though those questioned in this survey were only 21, those who were already mothers were among the lowest-scoring girls. It was some relief to see that many of those who could not read and understand a newspaper could at least manage to read a children's story aloud, but not much.

Educate a boy, they say, and you educate a man. Educate a girl, and you educate the next generation. Ignorance literally breeds ignorance

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Alan Coren



■ Desperate Bob cries 'Swiz!' after royal beano. Arf, arf!

You know how it is, when you are idly scanning a length of text in which you have hitherto had only the merest interest and suddenly a shibboleth springs out of it to strike the retina with such force as to make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres? And how, furthermore — when it is a really top shibboleth — thy two spheres, having finally got their eyes back, themselves continue for some considerable time to roll around like marbles in a soup-plate?

Come with me, then, to last Sunday morning and the hurly-burly of a chaise-longue bearing the unstable spoil-heap of Sabbath newsprint in the middle of which I am rustling, like an insomniac dormouse in its winter nest, trying to find something of import.

Which, at first glance, the Princess of Wales's parking saga unquestionably isn't. You will recall that our next Queen, of a mind to tie on the lunchtime bib at San Lorenzo on Saturday, fetched up in Beauchamp Place at 1pm in her nice new Audi, only to discover that there was nowhere to put it. To her, enter two constables: who, softly gazed at, I have little doubt, from beneath those famously lowered lids, instantly broke out in a muck sweat generated by assorted devotions too complex to unravel, and scribbled a note for the royal windscreen to the effect that the nice new Audi was on the fritz, and must not be ticketed, clamped, towed or even given a nasty look. Whereupon the Princess happily twinkled off for her spag bol, lowering the curtain, you would imagine, on as unmomentous a comic playlet as you could shake a slapstick at.

But you had reckoned without Mr Bob Cryer, Labour MP for Bradford South. For Mr Cryer was waiting in the wings, *diabolus ex machina* that he is, to spring on and open Act II. Nor was he waiting patiently. He was jumping up and down. He was foaming at the chops. He was gnawing the curtain, the better to persuade it of his view that so gross an abuse of privilege had occurred that there might well be nothing for it now but to herd the entire royal family into the Buck House basement and whistle up the marksmen. Now, we might feel this to be a bit strong, particularly if we believe that in the war between motorists and meterists no holds are barred and that the Princess's coup was therefore one for our side, but we feel it only because we have not yet clocked what was really upsetting Mr Cryer. So let us, since he has now bounded onstage, look at his actual words to the groundlings: "It is outrageous that the police should devote several man-hours to guarding a royal person's car while she is having a slap-up lunch."

A slap-up lunch? *A slap-up lunch?* Oh, my *Dandy* and my *Beano* long ago! Do you remember the slap-up lunch? It was what the toffs and the nobs always went to, at the Hotel de Posh, and they went in shiny top hats and shiny big cars with number-plates that read URA1 and RU 12, and it consisted of a mountain of mashed potato with a dozen bangers poking out of it, gobbled in the fawning company of wing-collared waiters endlessly firing corks at chandeliers. Was there ever a more potent class-war signifier than the slap-up lunch?

Not, I bet, to Mr Cryer. You can tell. You do not have to be a dab hand at subtexts and hidden agendas to see what has really got up Mr Cryer's nose, nor how far up it it has got. What has made the irradiating core of his rage go critical is not that a royal person's car was parked where it shouldn't, but that the royal person parked it so that she could tuck into San Lorenzo's towering mash and enormous bangers in the company of other toffs and nobs, while all that Keyhole Kate and Dennis the Menace can do is press their hapless poverty-stricken noses against the window and dream their futile gastric dreams.

So that was what made me sit up and take notice last Sunday. For I had rather hoped that all that foodist nonsense lay behind us, back in my far, class-ridden youth; but seemingly not. I note that Mr Cryer is to ask the Home Secretary about it in the Commons, so God alone knows how many man-hours he himself wishes to have further devoted to the matter. If only the Princess had told the Old Bill she was just going to see if the Knightsbridge job centre had anything for an unemployed single parent, none of this would have happened.



The way the money goes

Financiers don't understand simple words; nor, it seems, can they do sums

Bernard Levin

I little thought that I would be obliged to return so soon to the subject of high finance and the mighty geniuses who operate it. Well, I must.

You may remember that the last time, the subject was the meaning of the word "Yes". Asked whether he had sufficient funds for the project in which he was involved — it seems that very many millions were required — one participant had said "Yes" without preamble or reservation. However, subsequent events revealed that the funds in question were apparently sufficient only to provide all the participants in the business with a hamburger. And what is more, the cost of the hamburgers in question, although modest, nevertheless did not stretch to anything fancy; a reasonable quantity of ketchup could be covered, *but not onions.*

Now I made clear in the earlier farce that no one was breaking, or trying to break, any law; it transpired that all the tremendously clever people involved did actually believe that when somebody said "Yes" it could, at a pinch, mean "Yes", but could also mean — and indeed usually if not invariably *would* mean — such equivalents as "Perhaps", "In certain circumstances", "Quite possibly", "Mind you, it's only ninety billion at stake", "A touch of bankruptcy never hurt anyone — look at me, for instance", "I expect it'll sort itself out in the wash, eh?", and "Good old Fred".

Particularly "Good old Fred".

Now take another slice of toast, butter it well, and add your favourite jam. I take it the coffee is ready. Sit back, and get, as we used to say, a load of this.

> Some executives at *Fisons*, the ailing drugs company, made profits of £5.3m on share options which they cashed in, as the company's accounts were being manipulated to add millions to stated sales and profits.
>
> The legal manipulation of profits, which involved encouraging wholesalers to take stock at the year-end through discounts and booking the profits at a 70% margin was revealed last week when Cedric Scroggs, the chief executive, was sacked. But Scroggs and some other board members benefited personally from the artificially inflated profit figures, which helped to create a booming share price . . . The biggest winner was John Kerridge, then chairman and chief executive, who made £750,000 by exercising options . . . two days after the first date they could be exercised . . . He left the company for health reasons . . . Scroggs, who was then the head of the scientific instruments division, made £380,000 by exercising 160,000 options . . .
>
> Although there is nothing illegal about the manner in which profits were exaggerated or the way the share options were exercised, the non-executive directors were furious when they discovered what had been going on . . . Patrick Egan, the chairman, revealed . . . that the manipulation of profits . . . meant the profits of the division were being inflated by £54.6m . . .
>
> The ousting of Scroggs, who had been chief executive . . . followed . . . "We discovered it had been incredibly badly managed" said Egan. ". . . The board had been given misleading information about its profitability." . . . Scroggs initially resisted, insisting he was being made the fall-guy for the company's problems . . . Roy Thomas, the finance director, also left the company, bringing to five the number of executive directors . . . More than 100 technical managers have gone . . . The company forecast it would only break even this year, although it had expected to make £100m profits . . .

When I was at school, there was a boy called Scroggs. I wonder . . .

I shall come back to the story of Fisons and the share options being shared out — but before I do so, I must turn to Lloyd's of London, not for the first time and quite certainly not for the last. I hesitate to say that what has happened this time must be the last great *bêtise* of those in what is amusingly called "charge", because although I cannot stretch my imagination to encompass anything greater than they have achieved this time, it is possible that somebody else — Shakespeare, for instance, or Leonardo da Vinci, or Baron Münchhausan — might manage it.

It concerns the sum of money — £900 *million* — which has been raised to compensate the Names who went into Lloyd's not quite understanding the rules, found themselves unfortunately treated, and are now being offered reimbursement, lest they should go through the legal process and have judgment in their favour requiring some of the less decent, upright and trustworthy agents and underwriters to pay damages amounting to billions.

Well now. The distribution of this compensatory Danegeld is not the same for all sufferers; some were hit harder than others, and it is only right that the harder they were hit, the greater should be their recompense. There had to be proper weightings, on lolly-day, and when lolly-day dawned the 22,000 who had suffered much or little sat up all over the country to know what were the sums that they were to get.

Whereupon it was discovered that all the figures were wrong: *all* 22,000 were wrong. No, this is not my notorious comical exaggeration, it is the bare truth: 13,500 proposed compensations were too little, and 9,300 were too large.

Come: *The Times*'s insurance correspondent, Sarah Bagnall, has gone through the figures. She has found one sufferer £90,000 short in his award, another who was between £90,000 and £85,000 out of pocket, and seven more with holes in their socks £55,000 across. Then, there are those who — well, Shakespeare put it rather effectively:

> It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
> Upon the place beneath: it is twice bless'd:
> It blesseth him that gives and him that takes . . .

And two of these found themselves for a time £40,000 richer — there were only two of those, but there were four with between £35,000 and £30,000, and 12 were twice blessed by the gentle rain from heaven to the tune of between £30,000 and £25,000 each.

The man wringing his hands over this delightful shambles — or, to be quite accurate, wishing he had never set eyes on the place is called David Rowland, and if he would be so kind as to put his head in a bucket of water *and keep it there for at least an hour and a half* I guarantee that whatever happens next will be enormously entertaining. Do you know what he said — his most notable remark after the catastrophe? He said that the poor devils whose lives in many cases have been destroyed by the grotesque madhouse called Lloyd's would be "irritated". And he topped even that, saying: "We are not looking at anybody and saying, 'You got it wrong,' because we didn't set up a system to prevent it from happening." (And, yes, he did say that the catastrophe — getting all the sums wrong — was caused by corporation staff.)

"We are not looking at anybody and saying, 'You got it wrong.'" No? How about looking in a mirror, cully? No, he didn't himself put the wrong figures on the paper, but what happened to "the buck stops here"? He must have adopted the now usual form for government ministers who have made a complete bosh, in which the minister "offers to resign", the PM "refuses the resignation", whereupon all is as before.

I promised you, when I started, another picture of high finance, but I did not tell you that an extra version of that picture would be on offer. As it happened, we had a whole sandwich of high finance: one of the two slices of bread was formed by my reminder of the man who said that yes means no, and vice versa; the other crust was the man who thought that men and women whose lives had been destroyed by some dubious agents and underwriters might be irritated.

But the filling in the sandwich, where the unpleasing odour of nasty doings overpowers every other scent, *there* is the part I threw in free. Mind: the Kerridges and Scroggses and their pals (and of course most of the people in the company were doing nothing improper, nor corner-cutting) are not breaking any law, nor even trying to get round any law. When they were collecting huge sums from Fisons, the collecting was absolutely in the clear. Nevertheless, when approaching those very clever fellows, it would be wise to take a sufficiency of clothes-pegs.

How much water has gone over the dam since Ted Heath referred to "the unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism"? And yet those words are still not stale, and every now and again we see why. This, I think, is one of the moments when we do see why. The peculiar yes/no/both language that is spoken only in the world of money, touches only those who speak it. The David Rowlands are too given to speaking before thinking. But if the Fisons options-culture comes to dominate the the world of money it will poison us all. Antidotes, please.

Who rules now in Moscow?

Yeltsin's power has ebbed away, writes Anne McElvoy

If there is to be coup against President Boris Yeltsin, as the whispers in the over-heated, under-illuminated world of Russian politics currently suggest, it will have had the best advance publicity of any covert action against an elected leader in living memory.

On the front page of yesterday's edition of the popular *Moskovskaye Pravda*, readers were told who would be involved in the putsch, what they would see on their televisions when it happened and even given a preview of the explanation the plotters would give for their deed: that Mr Yeltsin is too ill to continue in office and lacks both the physical and mental stamina to rule. The ghosts in the Moscow machine have astutely managed to link the tired old health excuse for sidelining leaders with real fears that this one is ailing.

A similar report has been circulated in the Duma, and Western correspondents last week found an anonymous "Confidential Report" in their mailboxes, detailing the alleged state of disrepair of Mr Yeltsin's liver, and delphically marked "Important if True".

As fervently as his enemies insist he is seriously ill, the Kremlin spin-doctors emphasise the rudeness of his health. Although he has gone on a two-week holiday at an unconventional time of year following a three-week break due to a heavy cold, Mr Yeltsin's office insists that he is "working more than he is relaxing" in Sochi (in which case, why go?), and has taken to issuing a detailed account of his holiday timetable and activities, including the observation that the Ruler of All the Russians would have played tennis, but couldn't because it rained.

Russian TV viewers were even reminded that when the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, flew to see him on urgent and unexplained business, Mr Yeltsin received him wearing his tracksuit. The President, we were told by his tireless spokesman, has signed 81 decrees and other papers in the past week. Of which, one couldn't help thinking, hardly any are likely to be heeded by the sundry institutions which now openly scorn his authority.

The very industriousness of the rumour-mill reflects a growing uncertainty. Confidence in the President has plumbed new depths in the past month. This plunge was caused by the release of the key figures behind last October's parliamentary uprising, following a constitutional comedy of errors. It was not simply the freeing of the prisoners without trial that discredited the Russian leader, but his inability to impose his will on either the security services, which were in charge of the Lefortovo prison at the time, or the public prosecutor.

The new constitution, which Mr Yeltsin forced through by a whisker in the December elections, was designed to give him a strong hand. Western critics wondered whether it might not be too authoritarian; instead, due to characteristically Russian carelessness in the drafting, it proved unequal to the first test set by Parliament. Mr Yeltsin was left screaming at the prosecutor, Aleksei Kazannik, in a now famously leaked phone call, "There must be a way out", like some demented Gogol unfortunate. Mr Kazannik replied bleakly: "There is no way out."

Only a year ago, it was fashionable to compare Boris Yeltsin to a Tsar whose every whim became a decree. Now the only parallel seems to be the last of the Romanovs, Nicholas II, whose ill health, declining appetite for power and inability to control fomenting dissent enabled the Bolsheviks to sweep to power.

Of course, Mr Yeltsin's career as leader has been a succession of bouts with his opponents, and his ability to bounce back from the harshest of trials has become part of his personal legend. His unexpected diplomatic triumph in Yugoslavia cheered him, but its glow soon evaporated at home. On the domestic front, it is hard to think of any major decision he has been able to enforce since the December elections. His old allies are out of the Cabinet; his old enemies are out of jail; and his Prime Minister has a hungry look.

Mr Yeltsin is consulting hostile parliamentary factions, including Mr Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democrats, on a "Memorandum for Civil Peace and Accord", an attempt to persuade them to pull back their claws. In his rare public appearances, he stresses the need for calm, co-operation and reconciliation, but his calls are in inverse proportion to the amount of goodwill around.

There is a depressing modern precedent for this lacklustre response by a tired leader to concerted and tireless opposition to his basic aims. In the death throes of his rule, Mikhail Gorbachev sought to rescue his failing *perestroika*. He hoped that quangos could build consensus among irreconcilable political forces and the military-industrial complex. Plagued by economic decline and failing popularity, he stopped fighting his enemies, stalled reforms and issued desperate, unheard calls for consensus as the final conflict brewed around him.

In the months before his treacherous communist allies delivered the *coup de grace*, he was holding the reigns of power though the horses had long ago bolted. Mr Yeltsin may survive his holiday in the dacha, but he show no sign of knowing at whom to crack the whip when he returns, nor is there any certainty that they will heed him.

Marquess of misery

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS of family history — recently rather chequered — will lurch to a close tomorrow, when trustees acting for the Marquess of Bristol put the remaining acres of the family's Ickworth estate in Suffolk up for sale. Some 2,150 acres of farms and woodland are included in the sale of the Bristol West Suffolk Estate, which could swell the family's depleted coffers by between £2 million and £3 million.

The Marquess, currently serving a ten-month jail sentence for possessing cocaine and heroin, is reported to have inherited a £20 million fortune when his father died in 1985. But much of this has been squandered, while Ickworth House and its magnificent parkland passed to the National Trust almost 40 years ago.

The sale brings to an end more than 400 years of estate ownership by the Hervey family. Trustees for the disgraced 7th Marquess, who now heads the family, lease the east wing of his ancestral home from the National Trust on his behalf. But the trust admits that his tenure is currently proving a "very bad headache", and it recently instituted eviction proceedings for the first time in its history.

Simon Port, the Marquess's land agent, refuses to comment on the sale. The National Trust, however, admits it would be interested in buying parts of the property offered by the Marquess. "We are not interested in the whole thing, nor do we have the money for it. But there are bits and pieces adjoining our land which we would like."

Phone LA

MUCH has been made of the claim that Steven Spielberg's powerful film *Schindler's List* is shown unaltered and unedited throughout the world. But the Oscar-winning director has allowed one change to be made — in Israel.

At the end of the film, as the newly-liberated Holocaust survivors walk to freedom, the soundtrack for most cinema-goers is the song "Jerusalem the Golden". In Israel, however, the audiences hear the song "Eli Eli" by Hannah Szenes. Gerry Lewis of Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment explains: "It was pointed out by a couple of sources in Israel that the final scene was making Israeli audiences laugh. 'Jerusalem the Golden' was written to celebrate the reunification of Jerusalem after the Six Day War. It rather has 'pop-song' connotations over there."

A change was ordered immediately, with Spielberg choosing the new song after a United Universal Pictures representative found a recording in his Tel Aviv attic and played it over the telephone to Spielberg in Los Angeles.

Cut-price prince?

RALPH FIENNES had to content himself with basking in reflected glory when he found himself one of the gallant band of British thespians who walked away empty-handed from this year's Oscars. But the young star of *Schindler's List* will not be away from centre-stage for long.

For in January, Fiennes will give us his Hamlet, in an Almeida Theatre production to be directed by Jonathan Kent. While no doubt enhancing his artistic reputation, the return to the boards is unlikely to do the same for his bank balance. For he may well find himself following the altruistic example of the likes of Diana Rigg and Alan Bates, working for the Equity minimum wage of £185 a week. The north London theatre, however, declines to be drawn, pointing out that a bigger venue is already being sought: "The finances of the production have not yet been ironed out."

● *Bill and Hillary Clinton's extraordinary attempt to laugh off criticism of their health reforms by making an advertisement will have been noted closely in Buckingham Palace. For in a break with tradition, the Princess Royal is planning her own, albeit more sober, advertisement, which will see her star in a televised appeal next month to coincide with the 75th birthday of the Save the Children Fund.*

War and peace

MICHAEL FOOT was at his barnstorming best at yesterday's Foyles lunch to mark the publication of Mervyn Jones's account of his life. Addressing a socialist-studded audience that included Neil Kinnock, Roy Hattersley and the Lords Healey and Longford, the former Labour leader recalled returning to London in 1938 from a week's holiday in France with the then Barbara Betts, now rather better known as Baroness Castle.

Describing Castle as "the best socialist minister I ever sat with in Cabinet", Foot indicated that the pair enjoyed an ideologically tempestuous relationship even then. It was, he said, somehow appropriate that they had returned from their lively jaunt just as Neville Chamberlain flew back from Munich declaring "peace in our time". As he delicately put it: "I have had a special recollection of those words ever since."

Money talks

HAPPILY, Baroness Thatcher appears to have recovered from her collapse while lecturing in Santiago, and plans to continue her speaking tour of South America.



This can only be good news for her charity, the Thatcher Foundation, the major beneficiary of her lecturing fees, which have risen to the very top of the scale on the international speaking circuit. She was paid $120,000 for a talk she gave to businessmen in Sao Paulo last week. "That's even more than Henry Kissinger," says a well-placed source.

Organ voluntary

A VARIATION on the old theatrical request for a doctor added a fitting flourish of drama to yesterday's memorial service for Gwen Watford, at the actors' church of St Paul's in Covent Garden.

Donald Sinden takes up the story: "Suddenly, the vicar, Gwen's nephew-in-law Mark Thomas, stepped forward and asked if there was an organist in the house. We don't know why, but the organist had not turned up."

Apparently, the appeal to Equity's finest, including Sir John Gielgud, Dame Judi Dench and Julian Fellowes, met with much shuffling of feet and averting of gaze. Until, in the best theatrical traditions, a woman bravely stepped forward. As Watford, an accomplished pianist herself, would have liked, the unknown volunteer acquitted herself superbly. "It was one of the best memorials I have ever been to — quite remarkable," says Sinden.

TEXT FOR THOUGHT

A welcome guide to understanding our past

Few textbooks are path-breakers in their field. Most books aimed at the uninitiated student are works of synthesis, aiming to impart information rather than make a major impact upon the areas of knowledge they describe. Roger Scruton's new survey of the Western philosophical tradition, *Modern Philosophy*, is an exception to that rule. The author's notoriety as a polemicist means that the book, which will be reviewed in *The Times* tomorrow, has already excited great interest amongst colleagues and philosophy undergraduates; but its true significance lies in the manner in which it addresses the perplexed laity outside the walls of the academy.

The teaching of philosophy in this century has suffered greatly from two related defects. First, philosophers have tended, with some honourable exceptions, to retreat from the practical and moral questions of everyday human existence. The influence of Wittgenstein's work on language has been a mixed one, leading professional philosophers into the obsessive diversions of linguistic analysis. It is more fashionable now to ask if truth is possible than to ask "what is true?". Second, many recent thinkers have treated difficulty as a good in itself. The prose of Rorty or Derrida is as tortured and indulgent as that of Aristotle, Aquinas or Hume is clear. One of the delusions of modernism has been the belief that incomprehensibility is a mark of authority. As Professor Scruton shows, the opposite is true.

His intention in this book is to break the closed shop of philosophy, to make the subject as inclusive as possible rather than the reverse. No attempt is made to disguise the complexity of the daunting issues under discussion: morality, God, the self, space and time. Indeed, the author is disarmingly ready to admit the intractability of many of the questions he addresses. Considering the famous paradox of "What I am now saying is false", Scruton notes that it tormented Philetas of Cos to death and that a solution is no closer today. He never pretends that the rudiments of philosophy are easy; merely that they can be understood by those who are prepared to make the intellectual effort. He urges the newcomer to approach the subject with awed relish rather than melancholic anticipation of defeat.

Those expecting a proselytising right-wing version of Russell's *History of Western Philosophy* will be disappointed. Unlike several of his previous works, Scruton's latest book is not a tract. Yet the techniques which he employs do convey a powerful message about the way in which his discipline should be taught. In taking on the "technocratic style of modern philosophy", he seeks instead "to express the problems of the head in the language of the heart".

This is not simply a matter of prose style. Scruton prefers to engage with individual philosophers rather than schools of philosophy: he is more likely to refer to Descartes or Kant than Cartesianism or Kantianism. This suggests a hard-earned personal acquaintance with the great minds of Western history; it reassures the pupil of his teacher's wisdom. In this and other respects, *Modern Philosophy* is an unashamedly pedagogic book, restoring an old-fashioned notion of the proper relationship between the teacher and the pupil. "It is best to read sparingly but closely," writes Scruton, "and to write essays." Few modern academics would dare to commit such a mischievously dry observation to print.

In the best sense of the word, this is an anti-modern book. It resists the modernist inclination to jettison ideas which appear to have become obsolete. Scruton is as fascinated by those with whom he disagrees as by his own philosophical heroes. His higher purpose is to reforge links in the glorious chain of Western thought which the West is allowing to rust. That goal cannot be achieved by a single textbook; but, for those who would share the learning that has shaped our life, there are no better starts.

VOICE FROM THE NEAR ABROAD

Kazakhstan's ideas on Eurasian security merit attention

Russia's quest for United Nations recognition of its "peacekeeping" responsibilities in the independent republics of the former Soviet Union, reiterated in Moscow yesterday, sends shivers down diplomatic spines in neighbouring states and in Western capitals. Even before the Communist and ultra-nationalist gains in last December's elections, most Western governments viewed Russian claims to a special interest in its "near abroad" with misgiving. Statements by the Russian military command mix the protection of Russian nationals, Russian strategic interests and its claims to act as a regional stabiliser into a murky brew.

Yet the case against a flat Western rejection of Russia's proposals is all too obvious. The Russian military is already present in all the region's many conflicts; and in some, it actually has separated warring factions, as well as delivering humanitarian relief. Western forces are not about to volunteer for the task. By seeking a UN mandate, Russia is certainly seeking international legitimation of this role; but if a carefully negotiated understanding were agreed, Russia might be more likely to operate within international law and under international control.

This is a debate that must be joined. The West should listen carefully, therefore, to the proposals for creating a Eurasian "belt of stability and security" put forward in London yesterday by Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of Kazakhstan — a potentially wealthy republic second only to Russia in size, but also one in which Russians make up at least 36 per cent of the population.

Mr Nazarbayev is a former Communist who fought hard in 1991 to avert the break-up of the Soviet Union, and who still believes that the interests of the successor republics lie in much closer economic integration. But he now warns against any attempt to reconstitute the Soviet Union; and he is no Russian puppet. When Mr Kozyrev said, in Alma-Ata last November, that Moscow was determined to protect its nationals "even in friendly countries", he was given a sharp lecture about Hitler and the Sudeten Germans.

Mr Nazarbayev is, however, a realist about Russian military power. His idea is to channel that power by reviving the Commonwealth of Independent States as a Euro-Asiatic Union of sovereign states, drawing on both the European Union and the British Commonwealth as models. The price of admission would be acceptance of the inviolability of frontiers, respect for international agreements and — obviously with an eye on Russia — undertakings to renounce all forms of economic pressure.

This reconstituted CIS, which would exclude states involved in military conflicts, could, in his view, assemble specially trained joint peacekeeping forces. A tentative experiment on these lines has already begun. Troops from Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states have joined the Russian forces patrolling the frontier between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Mr Nazarbayev also wants to see a "confidence-building" Asian security conference modelled on the Helsinki process. That could take years; lions and lambs have never been keen on each other's company in Asia. But the handling of Russia's ambitions in its former empire is a matter of urgency. Mr Nazarbayev has offered the West a lever well worth testing.

SHOWING 'RESPECT'

Delinquent street culture perverts the meaning of the word

Les Reed — by all accounts, a conscientious and thoroughly decent man — was kicked to death with such violence that his injuries resembled those of a car crash victim. His attackers were responding to Mr Reed's advice that they show some consideration for their community by refraining from mindless hooliganism. The rage which this mild admonition produced in the gang of young men seems to have been a trumped-up excuse for a vicious attack. Not only was it grotesquely disproportionate to the brief exchange with Mr Reed and his companion, but the confrontation was apparently initiated by the youths themselves, who abandoned their recreation of kicking municipal equipment around the street in order to goad their victim into a reaction.

The youths were provoking a fight with a man who was likely to be disapproving of their conduct. By doing so, it seems that they could act out a violent fantasy which would qualify them for "respect". Press reports have commented on the fact that the convicted attackers were influenced by an American video called *Juice* in which a remarkably similar assault is committed, and that "juice" is a slang term for respect.

This definition of "respect" is, of course, itself corrupt slang. It is the sense of "respect" which has been used in Mafia circles for generations. What it implies is submission to the most dominant personality in a gang or a neighbourhood: a dominance that is established by force or criminal bravado. When joyriders speed through council estates, their spectacular braking turns are cheered by young hangers-on with the cry of "Respect!"

Mr Reed's tragedy was that he tried to reason with people in what he thought was a common language of social values. Showing respect for your neighbours meant, for him, accepting their legitimate desire to live in peace, free from the threat of antisocial behaviour and pointless destruction. But his assailants' code of conduct had a lexicon of its own in which the word "respect" had a perverse, inverted meaning.

Three of the four young men responsible for this sickening attack have now been found guilty of murder and given the longest sentences possible under the law: life for Stephen James who is 20 years old, and indefinite detention for Shane Hutchinson and Andrew Thomas who are both 17. In passing these sentences at Cardiff Crown Court, Mr Justice Scott Baker said that too many young people were arrogantly seeking to "dominate" their communities by their aggression. There is now a sub-culture in Britain, as well as in the United States, in which "respect" means deference to brutality. All the adult authority and courage that society can muster will be needed to restore the word's true definition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Prison conditions for immigrants

From the Chairman of the Association of Members of Boards of Visitors

Sir, You report today (earlier editions) the concerns of the board of visitors and the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Judge Tumin, about immigration detainees held at Pentonville prison.

We believe there to be well over 600 immigrant detainees held around the country. Some are held in special centres, such as Haslar and Harmondsworth, but others are scattered around the country in prisons close to their port of entry. They feel even more isolated than those held at centres. They have little access to immigration officers, and their cases are only dealt with slowly.

As such, they are particularly subject to the pressures which all these uncharged and unconvicted prisoners suffer, leading to a worrying level of self-harm and other problems. Many have no money, and purchases of personal requisites quickly eat into what savings others bring with them to Britain. Then they too must rely on charity, since they have no earnings.

Detainees' papers are held at the port of entry, where their case workers are usually based, rather than at the place of detention. There is a consequent waste of time travelling to interview detainees, and this slows up the decision process. All detainees should be held in a few specialist centres, with immigration case workers on site, and decisions made as quickly as possible.

Apart from the injustice, the cost to the taxpayer is enormous, at an estimated £300 per week per detainee.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN ELLIS,
Honorary Chairman,
The Association of Members of Boards of Visitors,
2 Arnold Lane, Gedling, Nottingham.
March 22.

Charging for blood

From Mr Robin Spon-Smith

Sir, The policy of supplying NHS blood to private hospitals has been criticised, though a charge is made for handling and storage (report, March 7). David Blunkett, shadow health secretary, is quoted as saying: "It is crucial that when people give blood they are reassured it will be used for the purpose intended."

I am a blood donor. When I give blood I assume that it will be used in the course of medical and surgical treatment and research. The financial circumstances of the ultimate beneficiary are of no more concern to me than his or her race, sex, or any other personal characteristic.

I also have private medical insurance. I take a dim view of the fact that, if I go into a private hospital, thereby saving the NHS money, I will have to pay for any blood that may be needed. The notion that the National Blood Transfusion Service might not supply blood to private hospitals at all is absurd and grossly offensive.

Yours truly,
ROBIN SPON-SMITH,
1 Mitre Court Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
March 7.

Mixed dress

From Lieutenant Colonel S. J. L. Roberts

Sir, As "the solitary holder of a bearskin" who helped to confuse Mr D. W. Brush (letter, March 19), let me answer his questions.

All Irish Guardsmen serving in the 1st Battalion, on parade on St Patrick's Day, wear scarlet tunics; those officers accompanying the Queen Mother wear blue frock coats; the battalion police staff wear blue No 1 dress; and all those who are serving elsewhere, but visiting for the day, wear khaki No 2 dress.

There are no arcane military explanations for Technical Quartermaster Sergeant Mcfarland's broad smile: it was caused by my orderly's frantic, unsuccessful attempts to get through the throng of photographers with my forage cap.

And had I worn my bearskin, it would have hidden half the file behind me!

Yours faithfully,
SEBASTIAN ROBERTS
(Commanding Officer),
1st Battalion Irish Guards,
Chelsea Barracks, SW1.
March 19.

Model wife

From Mrs Dinah Browne

Sir, I am quite prepared to believe that Rubens's first wife was thin ("Ample proof of the slender truth", March 16). His second wife, however, much painted and apparently much loved, was not. Other husbands/artists with slender wives have been known to find comfort with a warm, welcoming, overweight mistress.

Yours faithfully,
DINAH BROWNE,
186 Newcastle Road,
Downpatrick, Northern Ireland.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

The D-Day dilemma over Germany

From Dr A. Elliott

Sir, What would have been Churchill's response to the German Chancellor's wish (report, March 8; leading article, March 21) to be represented at the forthcoming D-Day celebrations? Would not the man whose history of the Second World War carried the motto, "In victory, magnanimity", have welcomed it?

Has ever a vanquished country asked to take part in celebrating an event which played a great part in its defeat? We should be glad of the change which has taken place in Germany in the last 50 years, and agree to her contributing to the event.

Yours faithfully,
A. ELLIOTT,
2 Westwood Green, Cookham,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.
March 21.

From the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Sir, Your leading article today, "Behind the mask", claims that Chancellor Kohl made "insensitive hints that he wanted to join the Allies in Normandy". May I point out that the Federal Chancellor has at no time made any hints of this kind to anybody.

Should you still have doubts I suggest a look at page 10 of the same edition, where your report quotes French President Mitterrand on the subject with the phrase: "Herr Kohl has not asked me for anything."

The story of Chancellor Kohl's hidden desire to be present at the D-Day celebrations does not even meet the requirements of the old Italian saying: "If it is not true it's well invented."

Yours sincerely,
PETER HARTMANN,
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany,
23 Belgrave Square, SW1.
March 21.

From Mr Christopher Swain

Sir, In your report of Germany's disappointment at not playing a part in ceremonies on the 50th anniversary of D-Day, you refer to the "celebrations". Who will be celebrating what? The French may have some cause, as it represents the beginning of liberation. For the UK and USA the motives are more questionable.

We already have a commemoration day for servicemen and women killed or injured in action, and as a day for national reflection, at which the Queen and Government are rightly present. What reason is there for a special D-Day anniversary as a national event, no doubt to be accompanied by another welter of old war films imprinting limited and negative stereotypes in the minds of another generation of young people?

The fact that the UK Government has sent "clear signals" opposing a German presence betrays the lack of vision behind the event. It is often said that we never learn from history. That is a sad generalisation. It is time that we made greater efforts to build more civilised relationships.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SWAIN,
55 Vernons Close, Henham,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.
March 15.

From Mr J. R. I. Sharp

Sir, The Second World War took six years from my early manhood but left me for ever proud of what my country achieved in the face of what had in 1940 seemed impossible odds to save the world from tyranny.

Now, in old age, I am shamed to the heart by our mean and selfish attitude towards the enlargement of Europe; even more, by our refusal to allow the brave adversary, however misguided, to join with us in celebrating D-Day as the beginning of liberation for Europe and for Germans as well as for ourselves.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SHARP,
20 Old Broadway,
Withington, Manchester 20.
March 15.

Vaccine against Aids

From Professor Thomas Lehner

Sir, Your science editor reports on March 12 that Dr Luc Montagnier has expressed the opinion that the search for a vaccine against the Aids virus (HIV) has reached a dead end, and the approach to vaccination should be re-appraised.

Dr Montagnier suggested that research should be shifted into a new direction to develop a vaccine which protects the mucous membranes from infection by HIV. I should like to endorse this view, and indeed this approach to prevention of HIV infection has been the subject of investigation in this school for five years.

Our rationale has been that since over 80 per cent of HIV infections are transmitted through sexual intercourse, vaccination should be focused on the mucous membrane of the female and male genital and rectal tracts.

We have investigated the best way to produce the special antibodies (immunoglobulin A) that protect mucous membranes and have published promising data in the scientific literature that should encourage further studies of mucosal vaccination against Aids. Indeed, we have been strongly supported in this research by the Medical Research Council's Aids-directed programme.

Recently, the European Commission has supported a concerted action on mucosal vaccination against HIV between this school and research centres in Sweden, France and Italy. The scientific network on such vaccination has now been extended between this school and four centres in the US, through a grant from the National Institute of Health in Washington.

The support for mucosal vaccination will enable us to pool scientific resources with European and North American centres of excellence, in a common endeavour to prevent one of the most deadly diseases afflicting the present generation.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS LEHNER,
Department of Immunology,
United Medical & Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals,
Guy's Hospital, London Bridge, SE1.

Arlott recalled

From Mr Timothy Arlott

Sir, I must reply to Giles Coren's claim ("Dishing the family dirt", March 18) that I defamed my father in my book, *John Arlott: A Memoir*.

My book is a tribute to a father whom I loved very much. I tried to write an honest book and although he was a great man, he was a man and did have faults. These are mentioned only very briefly and usually with a lengthy explanation about why he behaved as he did. Coren suggests I added the "last barbed chapter" to get the book published. That chapter was always there and the book was rejected initially by some publishers precisely because it did not and does not "dish any dirt" on my father.

Coren adds: "Tim never forgave his father for leaving his mother." In the book I write that my father's 17 years with my stepmother Valerie were the happiest of his life and that Valerie spoilt those close to her such as myself almost to a fault. Does that sound like I never forgave my father?

Sincerely,
TIMOTHY ARLOTT,
8 Rue des Garennes,
78400 Chatou, France.

Radio ratings

From Mr Roger Gane

Sir, Peter Barnard ("Who will find Five alive?", March 9) asks whether the new Radio 5 Live format will work and continues: "And if it does, how will they know? ... because the number listening in cars can only be guessed at."

The BBC will know because, together with commercial radio, it funds Rajar — Radio Joint Audience Research Ltd — to measure detailed listening behaviour from a representative sample of the population. Each Rajar informant completes a diary for a week.

In addition to identifying to which station they are tuned, they also indicate where they are listening — and one of the categories is "in a car".

I hope this allays Peter Barnard's fears. The first published results on 5 Live's audience will be available in the summer.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER GANE
(Director),
Rajar (Radio Joint Audience Research Ltd),
44 Belgrave Square, SW1.
March 9.

Air pollutants

From Dr Richard Bloore

Sir, I was appalled to learn from Harvey Elliott's article, "Aircraft pollutants fear" (Travel News, March 10), that the new aircraft engines, designed to be cleaner, are releasing alarming levels of nitrogen oxides.

If the International Civil Aviation Organisation claims that 2,279 tons of nitrogen oxides were deposited at the *average* airport in 1987 and that this will rise to 4,797 tons by 2005, can anyone tell me how many tons are being deposited on London, which is overflown by 70 per cent of all planes landing at Heathrow, the busiest international airport in the world?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BLOORE,
89 Haliburton Road, St Margarets,
Twickenham, Middlesex.

From Mr J. C. Ellis

Sir, Your motoring correspondent rightly tells us ("Left fuming at the kerbside", March 12) that the design of the motor car floorpan cannot readily be altered. Manufacturers could, however, at negligible cost, introduce a curvature to the end of the exhaust tail pipe so that it points away from the pedestrian pavement.

Also, a very cheap accessory, consisting of a few inches of steel pipe with a 45° bend and a clamp to fix it onto the existing exhaust pipe could easily be produced. Surely all conscientious motorists whose vehicles have exhausts on the left-hand side would be glad to obtain and fit this.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. ELLIS,
Trentham, Parkstone Drive,
Camberley, Surrey.
March 12.

Fictional films and real people

From the Canon Treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral

Sir, *Schindler's List* is undoubtedly a fine film with a powerful message but Simon Jenkins is surely right to raise the wider issue of fact and fiction in the cinema ("Stories that get in the way of the facts", March 12).

Nearly 25 years ago I was appointed religious adviser to the film *Cromwell* (1970). Repeatedly I pointed out factual errors in the script and its various revisions, only to be told that most people wouldn't know that such events hadn't actually happened, so it wouldn't matter. The "paperback of the film", as well as the film itself, contained the errors.

Then, in 1977, there was *A Bridge Too Far*, the story of the Allied defeat at Arnhem, in which a posthumous holder of the Victoria Cross was conflated with a well-known Airborne officer and given a different name, and the invented character died slowly in a cellar. The living officer 30 years on was not much amused to see himself die on film, scrambled into a fictional person.

One of your correspondents (letters, March 18) says that "bending of fact is irrelevant". The result may certainly enhance the drama for those who do not know the truth but the fact is that truth is the real casualty. "for ever on the scaffold". The lie has conquered. Can that really be a good thing?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAWARD,
6 Amen Court, EC4.
March 18.

From Miss Jean Wakeman

Sir, In his comments on *Shadowlands*, Simon Jenkins quotes Andrew Wilson, C. S. Lewis's biographer, who claims the film is mostly fiction. In fact, the film is basically the true story of the Lewises' romance, admittedly given a gloss by using characters that are younger and more photogenic, if less realistic than those they portray.

It would anyway have attempted the impossible to capture on screen two such powerful and vivid personalities.

More disturbing are the comments about Joy (Lewis's wife) as a "foul-mouthed harridan", and Lewis himself as "an unappealing, chain-smoking, hard-drinking masochist".

Poor Lady Truth indeed! I knew them both well from 1952 — their marriage — until the end of their lives, and find this a grotesque and unrecognisable picture.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN WAKEMAN,
The Old Vicarage,
Horton cum Studley, Oxford.
March 19.

Unfair to Australia

From Mr Brian McGill

Sir, Matthew Parris, whose humour I have so often enjoyed, says (March 14), without intending to be amusing, that Australians have not "won" their homeland and have "never spilt blood" for it.

It is true, I suppose, that Australians did not spill blood for their own country in the Middle East and on the Western Front in 1914-18. They were, in fact, spilling it for Britain. But in the 1939-45 war some 77,000 who defended Australia in Asia and the Pacific did not return.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN McGILL,
The Old House,
Market Lavington, Wiltshire.
March 15.

Traffic 'calming'

From Mr J. Bunting

Sir, Your environment correspondent reports (March 16) the Environment Secretary, Mr Gummer's, advocacy of "traffic calming measures".

Who is the damn fool who coined this expression? "Traffic calming measures" generally consist of unnecessary lumps in the road, obstructions or other hindrances to smooth passage along our roads.

Traffic consists of vehicles. Vehicles are driven by drivers. Vehicles, being inanimate, cannot be calmed or irritated. Drivers, finding their passage hindered by such impedimenta as are generally described as "traffic calming measures", are frequently irritated (at least). To adapt another modern phrase, such measures are not "driver-friendly".

Yours truly,
J. BUNTING,
77 Green Lane,
Buxton, Derbyshire.
March 16.

A dog has its uses

From Mrs Liz Young

Sir, I resent Mr Spitiall's suggestion (letter, March 16) that certain dogs are useless. Even a barmy animal like mine (cocker spaniel crossed with some ruffian on a farm) can perform two invaluable services: reassuring me that there are no Malevolent Presences upstairs after I've watched a late-night *Dracula*, and carrying out a very efficient pre-wash of horrible saucepans before they go into the dishwasher.

Yours faithfully,
LIZ YOUNG,
13 Cotswold Close, Kingston, Surrey.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.
The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Mrs Nazarbaeva visited Her Majesty.
The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, the Royal Philanthropic Society, this morning opened the "Teenagers at Risk" Conference at the Sedgwick Centre, London E1.
His Royal Highness, President, Central Council of Physical Recreation, later chaired a meeting to launch the Institute of Professional Sports Code of Conduct at Six Hamilton Place, London, W1.
Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.
The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon addressed the All Party Group on Population and Development at the House of Commons, London SW1.
His Royal Highness, International President, WWF World Wide Fund for Nature, afterwards attended a Reception at Spink and Son Limited, 5-7 King Street, London SW1.
Major Charles Richards was in attendance.
March 22: The [illegible] Edward, Trustee, this evening attended a Dinner given by The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at the Savoy Hotel, London, WC2, to celebrate His Royal Highness's Thirtieth Birthday.
Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.
CLARENCE HOUSE
March 22: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon received The Presidents of Queen Mary's Clothing Guild at St James's Palace on the occasion of the Guild's Annual General Meeting.
Miss Jane Walker-Okeover was in attendance.
Miss Jane Walker-Okeover has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 22: The Prince of Wales this afternoon commenced a two day seminar to discuss agriculture and the environment.
KENSINGTON PALACE
March 21: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Northern Ireland and was received on arrival by the Minister of State for Northern Ireland (the Rt Hon Sir John Wheeler MP).
In the morning His Royal Highness opened the Somme Association Heritage Centre, Conlig, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Down (Colonel William Brownlow).
Later The Duke of Gloucester, Commodore, was present at a Luncheon at the Royal Ulster Yacht Club, Ballyholme, and in the afternoon His Royal Highness, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, opened the St John Ambulance Youth Centre, Central Avenue, Bangor, County Down.
Afterwards The Duke of Gloucester visited 230 Squadron, Royal Air Force Aldergrove, County Antrim.
Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.
March 22: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Visitor, The King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Foundation of St Catharine's, this evening held a Reception at Kensington Palace for supporters of the Foundation.
March 22: The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Merseyside and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Alan Waterworth).
Her Royal Highness opened the refurbished St Luke's Halsall Primary School, Crosby, and subsequently opened Brian Cummings Court Sheltered housing scheme, Litherland. Later the Duchess of Gloucester visited Centre 63, a voluntary youth organisation, Kirby, and afterwards opened the Leisure Management Block at Knowsley Community College, Huyton, Merseyside.
Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.
The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society, this evening was present at a Reception at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1.
Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.
YORK HOUSE
March 22: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited Newport Components Limited, Tanners Drive, Blakelands North, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Commander the Honourable John Fremantle).
His Royal Highness later visited Sonatest plc, Dickens Road, Old Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.
The Duke of Kent, Visitor, this afternoon visited Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, and was met on arrival by Colonel John Rose (Vice Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire). Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.
The Duchess of Kent this morning opened the new extension at St Mary's Airport, the Airport, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly.
Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Lifeboat Station, Lifeboat Slip, St Mary's and St Agnes Primary School, St Agnes.
The Duchess of Kent later visited Park House Home for the Elderly, the Parade, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly.
Fiona, Lady Astor of Hever was in attendance.

Titanic relatives criticise plan to put relics on show

By Alison Roberts, Arts Reporter

RELATIVES of those who died in the sinking of the *Titanic* yesterday criticised an exhibition of items salvaged from the wreck.

Soon after the National Maritime Museum announced details of the exhibition, which will open in October, a relative of the liner's captain accused the *Titanic* salvage operation of "grave robbery".

Don Smith, great nephew of Captain Edward Smith, criticised RMS Titanic Inc, a New York-based company which has legal claims to the seabed on which the vessel rests, and has organised the exhibition in association with the National Maritime Museum. Mr Smith said the company had desecrated "the graves of many hundreds of people to make a profit".

"This is nothing short of grave robbery. The dead should be allowed to rest in peace," he said. More than 1,500 people were drowned when the liner, on its maiden voyage, hit an iceberg on the night of April 14, 1912.

Mr Smith was joined by Eva Hart, 89, a survivor of the disaster, who said that there was no archaeological benefit to be gained from salvaging the objects. The artifacts include bracelets, a leather purse and a shaving brush.

But Admiral Lord Lewin, chairman of the museum's trustees, was satisfied that the ethical questions had been answered.

"We had the whole project presented to us last year and at the conclusion the trustees were unanimous in deciding that the exhibition should go ahead," he said. "The wreck has never been entered by man and can never be entered at that depth and that pressure. All the artifacts have been recovered from the seabed and not from within the wreck, which is preserved as a memorial to the dead."

George Tulloch, chairman of RMS Titanic Inc, confirmed that the company had agreed not to sell any of the relics. They would be kept together in one collection for public view, he said. Nevertheless, RMS Titanic Inc. stands to make profits estimated at £40 million from the exhibition which will tour the world for five years and be seen by about ten million people.

Mr Tulloch said: "We only hope the estimates are right because then we can put a lot of money back into ocean research and do well by our shareholders."

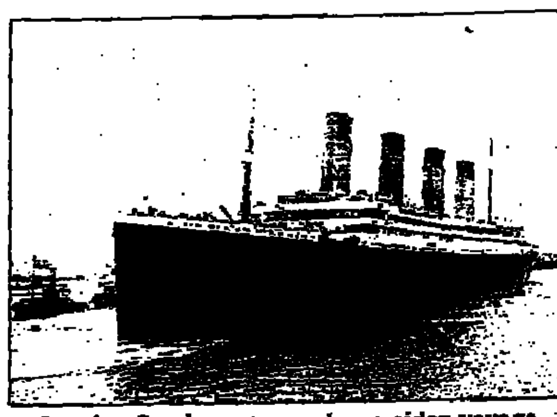
Millvina Dean, who was nine weeks old when her mother bundled her into a lifeboat leaving her father aboard the *Titanic*, had mixed feelings about the exhibition. "I was against bringing the artifacts up in the first place. I didn't want anything to be touched because I thought my father was there.

"But once they *had* brought them up from the seabed, there was nothing anyone could do about it and I thought people might as well see the things as a part of history."

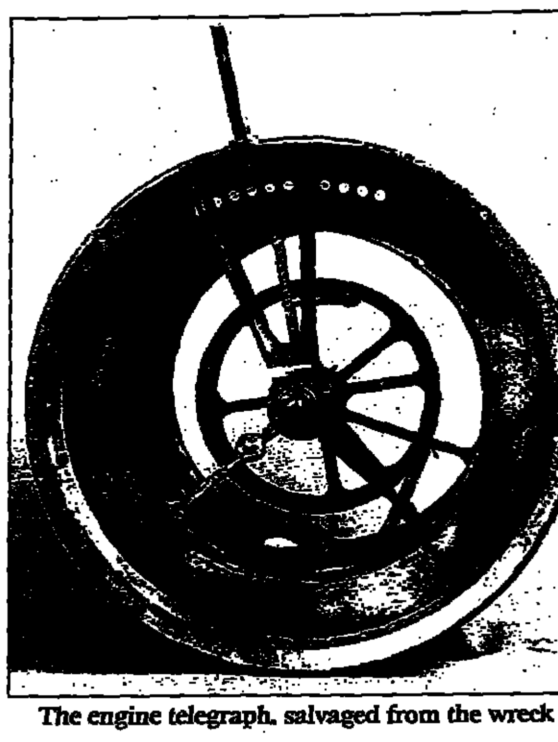
About 2,600 objects have been recovered from the wreck which lies two and a half miles deep in the North Atlantic, 500 miles off the coast of Newfoundland.

The items, which were scattered from the *Titanic* as it sank and cover an area the size of the City of London, include the finest cut-glass crystal and iron benches. Travellers' cheques, light fixtures, statuettes and pieces of fabric have all been found and preserved in laboratories in France.

The exhibition will open at the museum in Greenwich on October 4 and run until April 2, 1995.



Leaving Southampton on her maiden voyage



The engine telegraph, salvaged from the wreck

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.J.F. Ewbank and Miss S.C. Dance
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Sir Anthony and Lady Ewbank, of Hampton Court, and Sarah Chloe, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Dance, of Bickley, Kent, formerly of St Dunstan's College.

Mr J.A. Newman and Miss A.F.J. Darvall
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Newman, of West Clandon, Surrey, and Freya, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Darvall, of Chillies, Crowborough, Sussex.

Mr R.L.T. Powell and Miss C. Skinner
The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Commander and Mrs Jeremy Powell, of Aberporth, Dyfed, and Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Skinner, of Chenies, Buckinghamshire.

Mr N.L. Webber and Dr B.H. Leach
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs P.H. Webber, of Jincox Farm, Oxted, Surrey, and Briony, daughter of Dr and Mrs J.B. Leach, of Heathpool, Adelaide, South Australia.

Dinners

HM Government
The President of the Board of Trade and Mrs Heseltine were the hosts at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House last night in honour of the President of Kazakhstan and Mrs Nazarbaeva.

Constructors' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the ladies' dinner of the Constructors' Company held last night at Stationers' Hall. Mr P.M.R. Olley, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mr D. Blackburn, Senior Warden, and Viscount Norwich also spoke. During the dinner the Master presented the company's cheque towards the Lord Mayor's Charity to the Lord Mayor.

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Mr Anthony Bianco were the hosts at the annual reception and dinner of the City of Westminster held last night at the Dorchester hotel. Among the guests were:
Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of both Houses of Parliament, representatives of Churches, the judiciary, HM Forces, the emergency services, the arts and commerce, Greater London mayors, and representatives of voluntary and charitable organisations.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Lord Mustill was the principal speaker at the annual dinner of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr Clive, Lewis, president, presided and Mr Victor Watson also spoke.

Gin and Vodka Association
The Gin and Vodka Association of Great Britain last night held a dinner in Vintner's Hall to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Association. Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP, was the chief guest. Mr Norman Burrough, CBE, presided.

Danish-UK Chamber of Commerce
Mr Poul Andreassen and Mr Poul Schlüter were the guests of honour and speakers at the annual dinner of the Danish-UK Chamber of Commerce held last night at Skinners' Hall. Mr James G. Davis, chairman, was the host. The Danish Ambassador, Mr W.B. Harland and Mr Owen Kelly, Commissioner of the City of London Police, were also present.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, as patron, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will attend a reception at St James's Palace at 6.30 given by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to mark the 150th anniversary of their royal charter.
The Duke of Edinburgh, as President and Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, will preside at a meeting of the committee for the environment at 8 John Adam Street at 10.00; as patron, will open the new London regional office of Opportunities for People with Disabilities at 74 Great Portland Street at 3.30; and will attend a reception at Westminster University, 309 Regent Street at 4.00.
The Duke of York will visit Penarth lifeboat station, South Glamorgan, at 11.10; and will recommission the United Services mess, St John's Church, Church Street, Cardiff at 11.55.
Princess Margaret will preside at the annual council meeting of the NSPCC at the Barbican Centre at 11.30.
The Duke of Kent will visit the Cardiff Medicentre at the University Hospital of Wales, the Heath, at 11.00; as President of the Engineering Council, will attend the launch of the Engineering Centre for Wales at the Cardiff International Arena at 11.50; and will open Europressing at the Wentloog Corporation Park development, Wentloog, at 1.00.
The Duchess of Kent, as President of Action Research, will visit Vincent House, Horsham, at 10.00; will visit St Catherine's Hospice Shop at East Street, Horsham, at 11.15; as patron, will visit St Catherine's Hospice, Malthouse Road, Crawley, at 11.45; and will visit the Sussex Beacon Hospice, Bevendean Road, Brighton, at 2.45.

Birthdays today

Princess Eugenie of York is four today.

Professor H.C. Allen, American historian, 77; Mr Michael Atherton, cricketer, 26; Mr Norman Bailey, baritone, 61; Sir Roger Bannister, former master, Pembroke College, Oxford, and first man to run sub-four minute mile, 65; Mr Bryan Bass, headmaster, City of London School, 60; Professor R.J. Bennett, geographer, 46; Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP, 41; Mr Barry Cryer, comedian and writer, 59; Mrs R.E.J. Gilmore, chairman, Building Societies Commission, 57; Mr Peter Godfrey, chartered accountant, 70; Professor Kenneth J. Gregory, warden, Goldsmiths' College, 56; Ms Lis Howell, former director of programmes, GMTV, 43; Lord Jay, 87; Mr Akira Kurosawa, film director, 84; Sir Geoffrey Leigh, chairman, Allied London Properties, 61; Sir David McNee, former commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 69; Mr Michael Manser, architect, 65; Mr Andrew Mitchell, MP, 38; Mr Alfred Morris, MP, 66; Mr Michael Nyman, composer, 50; Sir Ralph Perring, former Lord Mayor of London, 89; Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman, Merseyside Development Corporation, 59; Sir Ian Todd, former president, Royal College of Surgeons, 73; Sir Edward Warner, diplomat, 83; Sir Denis Wright, diplomat, 83.

Marriage

Mr R. Searby and Miss J. Allright
The marriage took place on Saturday, March 19, in Warwick, between Mr Robert Searby, elder son of Mr and Mrs Philip Searby, and Miss Judith Allright, younger daughter of the late James Allright and of Mrs Kathleen Allright.

Memorial service

Miss Gwen Watford
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Miss Gwen Watford was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Rev Mark Thomas officiated and Mr Donald Sinden read the lesson. Sir John Gielgud, CH, Miss Diana Coupland, Dame Judi Dench, Miss Barbara Leigh-Hunt, Mr Richard Pasco, Miss Margaret Wolfit and Miss Barbara Jefford gave readings. Mr Julian Fellowes gave an address.
Among others present were:
Mr Richard Bebb (husband), Mr Owen Williams (son), Mr and Mrs Mark Williams (son and daughter-in-law), Miss Hanna Williams (granddaughter), Mrs Vivian Bebb (sister-in-law), Mrs M A Watford, Mr and Mrs M D Watford, Mr and Mrs John Williams, Mr and Mrs Peter Rae, Mrs Nicki Williams-Gray.
Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Lady Attenborough and Mr Simon Williams (Actors' Charitable Trust), Lady Richardson, Lady Garland, Lady Freud, Mr Peregrine and Lady Maureen Fellowes, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Johnston (chairman, Combined Theatrical Charities), Mr Jack Watling (Royal Theatrical Fund) and Mrs Watling, Mrs Donald Sinden and Mrs Karen Nichols (Theatrical Ladies' Guild), Mr Jeffry Wickham and Mr Ian McGarry (British Actors' Equity Association), Miss Carla Hanreck (Equity Trust Fund), Mr Rodney Timson and Miss Penelope Keith (Actors' Benevolent Fund) with Mrs Rosemary Stevens; Mr James M Penstone (Vic-Wells Association), Miss Mary-Jane Burcher (Gallery First Nighters).
Miss Muriel Pavlow (Denville Hall), Mr Nigel Seale (*Spotlight*), the Rev Michael Hurst-Bannister (Actors' Church Union), Mr Ken Gibson (Concert Artistes Association), Ms Jeanne Handzic (Maria Callas International Club), Miss Helen Croston (Connaught Theatre), Mr John Waite (Pavilion Records), Mr Brian Couch (Hastings Music Festival), Mr George Leach (Stables Theatre, Hastings), Mr D F Cheshire (Theatre Trust), Miss Annette Hales (Motivation Sound), Mrs Beverly Stark (Chivers Audio Books), Miss Elizabeth Villiers (Villiers-PR).
Mr and Mrs Marius Goring, Mr Charles Dance, Miss Miriam Margolyes, Miss Margaret Courtenay, Mr George Baker, Mr Francis Matthews, Mr Jeremy Sinden, Mr Geoffrey Palmer, Mr Alan Bennett, Mr John Schlesinger, Mr Henry McGee, Mr Michael Denison and Miss Dulcie Gray, Miss Margaretta Scott, Mr Moray Watson, Miss Doreen Mantle, Mr Frank Finlay, Mr Kenneth Snowman, Miss Faith Brook, Mr and Mrs Peter Jeffrey, Miss Katie Boyle, Miss Margaret Tyzack, Miss Joanna David, Miss Barbara Lott, Mr and Mrs Derek Nimmo, Mr Ion Trewin, Mr Tony Britton, Mr Hugh Manning, Miss Monica Grey, Miss Margaretta Scott, Miss Elizabeth Counsell, Miss Carol Royle, Mr Brian Oulton.
Mr Dinsdale Landen, Miss Gillian Raine, Mr John Bowen, Mr David Cook, Miss Ursula Howells, Mr Lee Montague, Miss Isabel Dean, Mr Robert Chetwyn, Mr Chris Godwin, Professor and Mrs W D Kennedy-Bell, Mr Christopher J Campbell, Mr John Turner, Mr and Mrs John Gale, Mr Jack Allen, Mr Peter Plouviez, Mr Frank Williams, Mr David Gilmore, Mr Alan Strachan, Mr Leonard White, Mr Richard Cottrell, Mr Alan Bridges, Miss Rosemary Anne Sisson, Mr Jonathan Cecil, Mr Marc Miller, Mrs Mark Thomas, Mrs Julian Fellowes, Mr James Tucker, Miss Diana Parry, Mr Derek Bond, Mr Peter Bartlett, Professor and Mrs B C Roberts, Mr Richard Leech, Mr Peter Moffatt and Miss Joan Kemp-Welch.
Mr David Turner, Mr John Baddeley, Miss Penelope Lee, Mr Julian Courtenay, Miss Sara Kestelman, Mr Charles Castle, Mr and Mrs John Lock, Mr and Mrs Richard Edwards, Captain John Bertram Rumble, Miss Ursula Hurst, Mr Norman Painting, Miss Elizabeth Dowland, Miss Naomi Harris, Mr Patrick Mort, Miss Pat Sandys, Mr Patrick Ludlow, Mr Greville Poke, Mr Norman McCann, Mr Eric Shorter, Mrs R M Oliver, Mr Norman Mitchell, Miss Jennifer Piercey, Mr David Long, Mr William Fox, Mr Mark Burns, Mr Roger Hammond, Mr Paul Gane, Mr Geoffrey Parkhouse, Miss Judy Campbell, Mr Noel Davis, Miss Dorothy Stratton, Miss Polly Adams, Mr David Fleming, Mr Nicholas Amer, Mr Richard Batten and Mr Francis Burrow.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Smith, geologist, Churchill, Oxfordshire, 1769; Alfred Milner, Viscount Milner, imperialist, Giessen, Germany, 1854; Michael Savage, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1935-40, Rothesay, Victoria, 1872; Sir Muirhead Bone, water-colourist and etcher, Glasgow, 1876; Juan Gris, painter and pioneer of Cubism, Madrid, 1887; Cedric Gibbons, film designer, Dublin, 1893; Erich Fromm, physiologist, Frankfurt am Main, 1900; Joan Crawford, actress, San Antonio, Texas, 1908; Wernher von Braun, pioneer of rocketry, Wirsitz, Germany, 1912; Jimmy Edwards, comedy actor, Barnes, 1920; Donald Campbell, holder of land and water speed records, Horley, Surrey, 1921.
DEATHS: Thomas Holcroft, dramatist and novelist, London, 1809; August von Kotzebue, dramatist, murdered, Mannheim, Germany, 1819; Stendahl (Marie-Henri Beyle), novelist, Paris, 1842; Raoul Dufy, painter, Forcalquier, France, 1953.

Service luncheon

HMS Victory
Prince Michael of Kent, Patron and Honorary Commodore of the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service, was the guest of honour at a luncheon held yesterday onboard HMS Victory in Portsmouth Naval Base for officers and former officers of the RNXS to mark the disbandment of the service on March 31. Admiral Sir John Kerr, Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host. The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire attended.

School news

Heathfield School, Ascot
Scholarships and Exhibitions for September 1994
Major Scholarships for the VIth Form for General Academic Studies have been awarded to Anne-Laure Duvaux, Selina Payne, Vanessa Teague and Imogen Williams. A Major Scholarship for Art has been awarded to Daisy Thomson.
A Music Scholarship has been awarded to Carla Sofia Abilahoud (Form IV in September).
Exhibitions to Form I entrants in September 1994 have been awarded to Annabel Clark (Violenschool, Hilversum), Mary Douglas-Home (Godstowe School, Bucks) and Olivia Hunt (Garden House, London).
Lent Term ends at noon on Friday, March 25 and the Summer Term will begin at 4.00pm on Sunday, April 17.

St Paul's Girls' School
St Paul's Girls' School announces the following awards:
First Year Awards: Clare Barclay, Bute House Preparatory School for Girls; Alexandra Reeve, Hill House School.
Senior Art Award: Shehani Fernando, Caroline Miller, St Paul's Girls' School.
Senior Music Scholarships: Victoria Chapman, The Cheltenham Ladies' College; Anna Roberts, St Paul's Girls' School.
First Year Music Award: Amanda Chapman, Danes Hill School; Catherine Nassif, Bute House Preparatory School for Girls.

Latest wills

Sir John Stafford Cripps, of Filkins, Oxfordshire, editor of *The Countryman* 1947-71, chairman of the Countryside Commission 1970-77, and son of Sir Stafford Cripps, left estate valued at £1,763,176 net.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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PRIVATE: 071 481 4000
FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

My one desire is to Know Christ and the power of his resurrection, and to share his suffering in growing conformity with his death...
Philippians 3:10 (REB)
Saturday February 5th

BIRTHS

ALINGTON - On March 11th, to Caroline (née Boreham) and Piers, a daughter, Grace Elizabeth Arpentine, a sister for Katherine and Emma.

ANDERSON - On March 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Susan (née Brown) and Doug, a handsome son, Davis Marion, a brother for Erin Marie.

DODSON - On March 22nd, to Kirsty (née Riddle) and Mark, a daughter, Chloe Elizabeth Palmer, a sister for Fenella.

GILLAN - On 20th March at the Wellington Hospital, to Sarah (née Chubb) and Adrian, a beautiful daughter, Harriet Elizabeth.

HANCOCK - On 21st March, to Frances (née Cary) and Anthony, a daughter, Rebecca, a sister for Oliver and Sam.

HELME - On 17th March 1994, to Mirabel and Tom, a daughter, Lily, a sister for Alice, Tyga and Toby.

HILL - On 18th March 1994, to Tanya (née Marshall) and Duncan, a son, George John Edye.

KEMSLEY PEIN - On Tuesday 1st March at The Portland Hospital, to Eve (née Hudson) and Alasdair, a daughter, Arabella Julia.

MACLEAN - On March 21st, to Charlotte (née Foucar) and Nicholas, two daughters, Flora and Alice.

MARTIN - On March 7th 1994 in Houston, Texas, to Elizabeth and Richard, a daughter, Melanie Leigh.

SNELSON - On 20th March in Cambridge, to Catharine (née Bennett) and Andrew, a daughter, Sarah Ellen, a sister for Lucy.

ST.JOHN COOPER - On 17th March, to Meryl (née Anderson) and Robert, a daughter, Isabella Siobhan, a sister for Tristram.

TURTON - In London on March 13th 1994, to Jane (née Neill) and Graham, a son, Alexander Ian Tullis.

VAN GRUISEN - On Friday 18th March 1994, to Nick and Iris, a daughter, Tara Hannah, a sister for Hamish.

WINGFIELD DIGBY: ENDREWEIT - To Mark and Andrea, on 22nd February, in Sydney, Australia, a son, Piers Marcus Giles.

DEATHS

BEHARREL - On 16th March 1994, Julia Elizabeth of Hatfield Broad Oak. Dearly loved mother of Victoria and Rebecca, wife of Steven, daughter of Canon William Powell D.L. Memorial Service and Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Hatfield Broad Oak, on Tuesday 29th March at 3.30 pm. Donations, if desired, to 'Cancer Research' and Farleigh, Chelmsford Hospice, 212 New London Road, Chelmsford. All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishops Stortford, tel: (0279) 655477.

BELL - Peacefully at Keith Turner Memorial Hospital, on March 21st 1994, Anne MacKean, Davidston House, Drummuir, Keith, wife of the late Raymond Bell, dear mother of Raymond. Funeral Service in St Leonard's Parish Church, Hepburn Gardens, St Andrew's, on Friday March 25th at 2 pm thereafter to St Andrew's Western Cemetery. All friends invited.

BHOSE - Polak, on March 18th 1994, peacefully at home. Dearly loved husband of Anjta; father of Indra, Maya, Arpita and Ranjit; grandfather to Louis and Angeli; father-in-law to Florence. Funeral on Thursday 24th at 4 pm, West Herts Crematorium, Garston, Herts. Enquiries tel: Phillips (0727) 851006. Family flowers only. Any donations to Cancer Research.

BRAYSHAW - On 3rd March, Stuart Crawford Brayshaw, D.F.C., aged 72. Much loved father, grandfather and friend. Funeral, Garston Crematorium, 29th March, 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Brain Research Trust c/o L.C. Weston, 17 Leyton Road, Harpenden, Herts.

CARMICHAEL - Dora Elsie (née Flood), passed peacefully away in Bath on March 19th. Loving wife of Henry Murdoch Carmichael, adored mother of Peter R.C. Downe, will be sadly missed by grandchildren and friends. Funeral Service on March 28th 12 noon at St Michael's Church, Chenies, near Chorleywood.

CLARKE - Lt. Col. J.E. Clarke MBE (Mil) late the Buffs and AQMG 8th Army. Solicitor. Sometime H.M. County Coroner for South Kent. Plantsman. Radio "Ham" (TK5FF ex-G8KA). On March 15th, peacefully at his home in Corsica, (formerly of Cranbrook and Frittenden), after many years of poor health, and a final debilitating illness. John Eric aged 74, husband of Judy. Beloved father of Susan and Sally; splendid stepfather to Anne and Jeremy, and grandfather of many. Cremation has taken place.

COCKBURN - On Monday 21st March 1994, peacefully after a short illness at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot. Sir Robert Cockburn KBE, CB, Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, beloved husband of Phyllis and much loved father of Gillian and Sally and grandfather of Tim, Claire and Jane. Private cremation service, no flowers, but donations if desired to the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot. Memorial Service to be announced.

COSIN - Lionel Zelick M.A. Oxon. F.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (London.), Emeritus Consultant Geriatrician Area Health Authority (T.) Oxfordshire, died peacefully 21st March 1994. Loved and loving husband, father and grandfather, remembered with affection. Funeral at 11.15 am on Monday 28th March. East Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium.

COWIE - On March 17th, peacefully, Margaret Elizabeth (daughter of Spencer Gore the artist) aged 81, widow of Richard and much loved mother of Christopher, John, Frances and Martin, grandmother of Charmian, Malcolm, Melissa and Ricky. Funeral Service at Barham Crematorium, Canterbury, Kent, on Monday 28th March at 3.30pm. Family flowers. donations to The Arthritic Association c/o John Kemp, 26 Harbour Street, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1AH.

DODGSON - John Francis Dodgson, BSc (Econ); F.C.A. Lately a partner in Coopers & Lybrand International, Zambia. Born April 7th 1926 in London. Died suddenly at home March 19th 1994 in Lusaka. He is deeply mourned by his wife Margaret, daughters Jenny and Clare and son-in-law Paul. Will all friends overseas please accept this as official notification. P.O. Box 32027, Lusaka, Zambia. Tel. No. 291227. Fax. 00 26 1 225123.

FITZER - On March 20th, suddenly but peacefully at home in Milford-on-Sea, Herbert Clyde Fitzer, C.B., O.B.E. Beloved and sadly missed by all his family. Service at All Saints' Church, Milford-on-Sea, on Friday March 25th at 12.15 pm followed by cremation at Bournemouth. Family flowers only, donations if desired to N.S.P.C.C. c/o Diamond and Son, Funeral Directors, Lymington, Hants., tel: (0590) 672060.

FLAVIN - Edna died peacefully at Georgian House, Ealing, on 19th March 1994. Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium on Friday 25th March at 4 pm. Family flowers only, otherwise donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Christopher Wickenden Funeral Services, 71 Greenford Avenue, Hanwell, London W7 1LJ. tel: (081) 579-7176.

FURBER - Maisie, at home peacefully on March 21st 1994. Dearly beloved wife of Richard and much loved mother of Clair and Guy and grandmother of William and Edmund. Private funeral to be followed by Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity, Coleman's Hatch, East Sussex, on Tuesday 19th April at 11.30 am.

GRIFFITHS - On March 20th at Bideford & District Hospital, N.L. Robert aged 76 years of Northam. Ex-Major R.M. and subsequently on the staff of Grenville College, Bideford. With very loving thanks to his wife Lucy, his three children and their families and all eleven grandchildren for all their wonderful support and attention over the years. Funeral Service will be held at St Margaret's Church, Northam, on Tuesday March 29th at 11 am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. If desired donations for SSAFA may be sent c/o Trapnell and Sherborne, 7A Lower Gunstone, Bideford, N. Devon.

HINDLE - On March 18th 1994, Miss Anne Hindle, aged 89 years, Founder and Managing Director of Fairways & Swinford Travel. Funeral on Saturday March 26th at Golders Green Crematorium at 10.30am. Flowers to James Crook Ltd., 259 Kilburn High Road, NW6, on Friday 25th by 5pm.

HOWARD - Sylvia Amelia, née Lopresti, died March 19th 1994. Service will take place at The Ambler Funeral Home Monday March 28th at 12.45 pm followed by interment. All flowers and enquiries to The Ambler Funeral Home, 550 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13, tel: (021) 449-6666.

LOWINGS - Dr. Peter Harold, M.A., B.S.C., B.Agr., Ph.D. Former senior tutor of Wolfson College and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Died at Addenbrookes Hospital on Thursday 17th March 1994, aged 68 years. He will be sadly missed by his children Nick, Manda, John, Luke and Mary and by his grandchildren. Funeral Service at Cambridge City Crematorium West Chapel on Friday 25th March at 2pm. In lieu of flowers family would appreciate donations made payable to British Diabetics Association which may be sent to Cambridge Funeral Service, 617 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.

MARSH - Mrs. W.J.E. Peacefully in her 101st year. Much loved, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother of the Marsh and Shepley-Cuthbert families.

MATURIN-BAIRD - On March 20th 1994, peacefully, aged 96, Lt. Col. Charles Eager, husband of Evelyn and the late Angela. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Langham, on Monday March 28th at 12 noon.

MILNER - Arthur Selby C.B.E., D.L., peacefully, aged 90, on 19th March, beloved father of David Selby, Anrea and Rosemary. Funeral will be at 12 noon, Saturday March 26th 1994 at All Saints Church, Emberton, Olney, Buckinghamshire. Family flowers only, all donations to The Army Benevolent Fund.

PATTON - On March 20th, peacefully in a nursing home in Purley, Surrey, Edith Victoria aged 91 years, widow of George Walter Patton. Service at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, on Monday March 28th at 2 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations for The National Trust may be sent to J.B. Shakespeare Ltd., 67 George Street, Croydon, Surrey.

PEARCE - Martin died in an accident while training his horse on March 13th, aged 35. He will be buried beside his brother Justin at Thruxton on March 24th. A Service of Thanksgiving for Martin's life will be held on Friday March 25th in Fen Ditton Church, Camb. 1.45pm. Donations for M.S. Society, tel: (0223) 416286.

POTTER - Lt. Cdr. RN (Retd) David Keith Furniss, on March 21st peacefully at home. Beloved husband of Doris, dear father of Jolyon and Justin and loving grandfather. Funeral Service at Holywood Parish Church, Co. Down, on Thursday March 24th at 12 noon followed by private cremation.

SMITH - Muriel Winifred Goldwin MBE. Passed away in the Faversham Cottage Hospital, Kent, on 18th March 1994. Funeral Service Friday 25th March 4.40 pm at Charing Crematorium, nr. Ashford, Kent. All enquiries to Hogben and Partis Ltd., 37 Stone Street, Faversham, Kent, tel: (0795) 532319.

SODEN - On March 20th 1994, at Aylsham Cottage Hospital, Geoffrey Ingle D.D.(Oxon), FRHistS, aged 91 years. Requiem Mass at The Church of the Sacred Heart, North Walsham, March 28th at 12.30 pm. Enquiries Dockers, Aylsham, (0263) 733176.

UDALL - On March 22nd in hospital, Dr. Geoffrey Sturt, aged 77, husband of the late Eleanor. Funeral Service at Christ Church, Reading, on Thursday March 31st at 2.30pm, followed by interment at Beech Hill. Flowers or donations for 'Friends of Trunkwell', may be sent to A.B. Walker & Son Ltd., 36 Eldon Road, Reading.

WHITE - Alan Norman (RAF retired) passed away on March 18th, aged 56 years. Alan's beloved wife Margaret, children Catherine and Edward, sister June and mother Celia have countless happy memories. The funeral service will be held at St Boniface Roman Catholic Church, Shirley, Southampton, on Friday 25th March 10 am followed by private interment. Family flowers only please, donations if so desired made payable to the Wessex Cancer Trust c/o J. Beavis and Sons, Vincent Street, Shirley, Southampton. tel: (0703) 772120.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

PECK - A Memorial Eucharist for Mr Rory Peck will be held at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 19th April 1994 at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street and afterwards at Chelsea Barracks.

IN MEMORIAM – WAR

BARR - Of Shadwell House, Leeds, Robert Geoffrey, Sub Lt. Fleet Air Arm, RNVR killed 50 years ago today aged 20 years. Remembered and loved by his family in England and Scotland.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

VAN LOO - Margot, on March 23rd 1992. Always remembered by Adrian, John, Mary, Naomi and her grandchildren Matthew, Peter, Benedict, Magdalena, Francis and Emilie. You are always in our thoughts.

VAN LOO - Margot (née Poole), died 23rd March 1992 in her 80th year. She was a very special person and is sorely missed by all who knew her, especially by her husband and her family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FELDHAUS Jeanne, please get in contact with John Hopewell III Attorney at law. Call collect Louisiana 5045839963.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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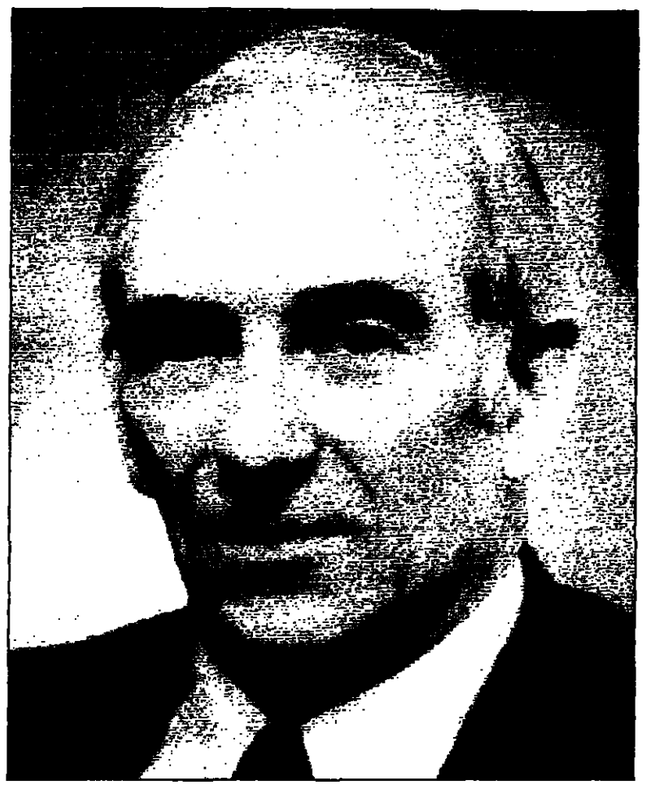
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OBITUARIES

RUPERT BRUCE-MITFORD

Rupert Bruce-Mitford, archaeologist, died on March 10 aged 79. He was born on June 14, 1914.



RUPERT BRUCE-MITFORD took no part in the central event of his career. When the Sutton Hoo ship-burial — "the most marvellous find in the archaeological annals of England," as it came to be called — was discovered near Woodbridge, Suffolk, on the eve of the Second World War in 1939, he was carrying out the first-ever scientific excavation of a deserted medieval village, at Seacourt, on the line of Oxford's western by-pass.

In 1944, when the Sutton Hoo treasures emerged from their wartime hiding-place in the tunnels of the London Underground and returned to the British Museum, Thomas Kendrick, then Keeper of the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities, entrusted Bruce-Mitford, just released by the forces, with their study and publication. He could not claim to have been unprepared. "Brace yourself for this task," Kendrick had written to him as early as 1940.

Over the next half-century, twenty years of which were spent in the demanding post of Keeper of the Department (afterwards, the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities), Bruce-Mitford undertook, in addition to his work on Sutton Hoo, an astonishing range of enquiries into some of the greatest works of early medieval insular art, both manuscript and metalwork, including the *Codex Amiatinus*, the Lindisfarne Gospels and, latterly, the hanging bowls which form the outstanding body of Celtic artefacts of the period AD 400-800.

To all this work he brought the art of looking and really seeing, as well as a scholarship of depth, breadth and meticulous care. Nothing seemed to escape his eye or fail to arouse his interest. He was the leading British scholar of Anglo-Saxon and Celtic art and archaeology in his generation and commanded the affection and respect of colleagues of all ages throughout Europe and further afield.

Rupert Leo Scott Bruce-Mitford was born in London, the youngest of the four sons of C. E. Bruce-Mitford of Yokohama, journalist, geographer and vulcanologist, and Beatrice Allison of British Columbia, whose father was a pioneer rancher and gold-prospector. Educated at Christ's Hospital and Hertford College, Oxford, where he was a Baring scholar and from 1984 an honorary fellow, Bruce-Mitford's first post was at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Much of his year there he spent with Martyn Jope watching mechanical diggers excavating the basement of the New Bodleian. Part of Bruce-Mitford's job, as Professor Jope recalled, was to jump on the lorries taking the spoil from the site and to pick out such medieval pottery as he could find, put it in a bag, and come back on the bus or in an empty lorry. The paper which appeared the following year in *Oxoniensia* established the study of medieval pottery in Oxford on a rigorous basis and marked the beginning of the great tradition of medieval archaeology in Oxford and its region. That same year Bruce-Mitford joined the staff of the British Museum where eventually his Oxford experience led to the foundation of the National Reference Collection of Dated Medieval Pottery.

After war service in the Royal Signals, Bruce-Mitford returned to the museum and was immediately deeply involved in the study of Sutton Hoo. With the conservation of the finds now in the hands of Herbert Maryon in Dr H. J. Plenderleith's research laboratory, there followed, as Rupert Bruce-Mitford later recalled, "great days for Sutton Hoo when new, often dramatic discoveries were being made in the workshops all the time. Built from fragments, astonishing artefacts — helmet, shield, drinking horns — were recreated." Within two years Bruce-Mitford produced the first edition of the museum's *The Sutton Hoo Ship-Burial — A Provisional Guide* (1947) which was to run through ten reprints and sell more than 50,000 copies.

Full study of Sutton Hoo was to take very much longer. For the next decade his duties in the department left no time for the kind of consistent scholarship required, but in 1960 a house in Montague Street was made available in which a team of 13 people were eventually to work. The first volume of *The Sutton Hoo Ship-Burial*, magisterial and superbly produced by the museum's own publications department, was hailed on its appearance in 1975 by the president of the Society of Antiquaries as "one of the great books of the century". The second volume appeared in 1978, and the third and final volume, after not a little heart-searching and tribulation, in 1983.

Despite Sutton Hoo and his official duties, Bruce-Mitford found time for excavation at Mawgan Porth in Cornwall, for further excavations at Sutton Hoo, and for major works such as the facsimile edition of the *Codex Lindisfarnensis* which appeared in 1956, accompanied by a massive volume of commentary and discussion by himself and a team of fellow scholars.

Bruce-Mitford was elected to the fellowship of the British Academy in 1976 and on retirement from the museum in 1977 held a series of visiting professorships and fellowships, remaining fully engaged in active scholarship. He completed his book on the excavations at Mawgan Porth which will shortly be published by English Heritage, and for a decade worked on one last and major task, his *Corpus of Late-Celtic Hanging Bowls AD 400-800* which was completed only shortly before his death.

He is survived by his third wife Margaret, and by the three children of his first marriage.

BRIGADIER JACK GLENNIE

Brigadier Jack Glennie, CBE, DSO, who served in the Second World War in North Africa and Italy and in the 1960s in the Brunei emergency, died on March 6 aged 79. He was born in Ceylon on August 8, 1914.



ALTHOUGH he was to fight on some of the most celebrated battlefields of the Second World War, in Tunisia and at Monte Cassino, one of Jack Glennie's most remarkable exploits took place as a junior officer in a lesser-known campaign — the remarkable fighting rearguard action against the Italians in British Somaliland in August 1940. In what was the first really serious aggressive move of the war by Italy against Britain, the Duke of Aosta, Viceroy of Ethiopia, decided to seize the port of Berbera on the shores of the Gulf of Aden, to deny the British the means of reinforcing themselves in the Horn of Africa.

Despite being mounted in overwhelming strength — odds of around 15-1 — the Italian offensive, which began on August 3, was stoutly resisted and in a manner which gave the invaders some food for thought about the fighting qualities of their opponents. Glennie's contribution to this remarkable episode was to requisition a signal gun from the Australian light cruiser *Hobart*, then cruising the waters of the gulf. Since it could be used to fire solid shot, this unlikely-looking weapon played its part in the defence of Berbera, knocking out no fewer than seven Italian tanks. By the time the British force was evacuated from the port on August 19, 1940, it had inflicted 2,000 casualties on the Italians at a cost to itself of barely a tenth of that number.

John Belford Arthur Glennie was educated at Newton College and joined the Royal Sussex Regiment in Egypt in 1934. He took command of its 1st Battalion in North Africa in the closing stages of the campaign and in May 1943 accepted the surrender of the Afrika Korps from its commander, General von Arnim. He next took his battalion to Palestine for training in mountain warfare. This was in preparation for the campaign in Italy, whose terrain of steep ridges and deep defiles weighted the odds heavily in favour of the defenders and soon gave a hollow ring to Churchill's description of the country as: "the soft under-belly of the Axis".

In 1944 Glennie led the 1st Royal Sussex during perhaps the most salutary demonstration of this grim lesson. This was the battle for Monte Cassino, during which the German defenders defied Allied attempts to dislodge them from their heights for five long months. Glennie was awarded the DSO for his leadership of his battalion during the attritional second phase of the battle, which was fought after the 6th-century Benedictine monastery which crowned the mountain had been destroyed by American bombing. Far from making life easier for the attackers, the rubble of the building created a much more defensible position than the standing monastery would have done, since the Germans could occupy it under bombardment without the fear of being buried under falling roofs and walls. Furthermore, they had plenty of useful material to hand with which to construct barricades and strong points. In these difficult circumstances, compounded by driving rain and rivers of mud underfoot, the 1st Royal Sussex was repeatedly sent into attack — and as frequently repulsed — sustained by its commander's inspirational courage.

Glennie was wounded at Cassino and when his battalion was relieved he was invalided out of Italy. He was then chief instructor at the Middle East Junior Staff School until the end of 1944. Among his postwar appointments were a period in Korea, training under the aegis of the US 4th Infantry Division, and command of his battalion in Gibraltar.

Glennie was serving as Brigadier, General Staff, Far East Land Forces at Singapore when in December 1962 a revolt, fomented by Indonesia as part of a plan to destabilise the nascent Malaysian federation, broke out in Brunei, whose Sultan was hesitating about joining the federation. The Sultan asked the British Government for help and a force of British and Gurkha troops was hurried to Brunei from Singapore with Glennie in command. Within a week all major centres in Brunei had been secured against the rebels. Glennie was appointed CBE for his role in the success of this initial action in what was, however, to turn into a prolonged campaign, involving fighting in other Bornese states. Later in December the jungle fighting expert Major-General (now General Sir) Walter Walker arrived in Borneo to begin what was to be a four-year operation at the end of which the Indonesian threat to the island's Malaysian territories had been eliminated. Glennie continued as Walker's second-in-command for the first two years of this period.

In 1964 he returned to Britain where he became Commandant of Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot, a post he held until 1966. His final appointment was as Commander Rhine Area.

In retirement Glennie enjoyed cruising in European waters with his family and friends in his gaff ketch, *Guiding Star*, a vessel of great character which had begun life as a Looe lugger in 1907 and been converted to gaff rig in the 1930s. As commander of a Territorial infantry brigade in London in the 1950s Glennie had chosen to live aboard *Guiding Star* which he kept at that time on the Thames at Teddington. His French-born wife Marguerite, with whom he shared a simple Christian faith exercised either at her Roman Catholic church or his Church of England one as circumstances or whim directed, died in 1991. He is survived by their two sons.

DEVIKA RANI

Devika Rani, former Indian film actress, died on March 9 aged 86. She was born on March 30, 1908.



AT A time when men masqueraded as women on screen and cinema was virtually out of bounds for "respectable" women, Devika Rani made celluloid history by becoming the first lady of the Indian screen.

That was in the 1930s when Indian cinema was passing through the phase of transition from the silent to the "talkies" era. *Karma*, the first Hindi "talkie" film, launched Devika Rani and made her an international celebrity overnight. The English version which premièred in London had critics describing her as the most "beautiful and glamorous" face in world cinema.

Devika Rani came from the illustrious Tagore family in Bengal. She was the grandniece of the Nobel prizewinning poet Rabindranath Tagore and the only child of Colonel Chowdhury, an eminent surgeon and his wife. It was this progressive background that allowed the actress to choose a career in films at a time when Indian society still attached a stigma to the profession. The "first lady" was to become the recipient of the country's most prestigious film prize in later years — the Dada Saheb Phalke award.

Devika Rani's entry into films, however, was not a pre-planned event. She virtually stumbled upon it when, as a young girl, she came to London to take a course in textiles. It was here she met the Indian film-maker Himanshu Rai — who was to introduce her to the heady world of cinematography in Europe, catapult her onto the Indian screen and marry her. Rai had been working with European film-makers and he wanted Devika to learn the whole business from scratch in order to prepare for her entry into Indian films. "I started my film career as a make-up artist because learning about make-up was vital to acting," the actress recalled.

After spending several months in Germany working with European masters the couple returned to Bombay. There they set up Bombay Talkies, one of the earliest production studios in India's film city. Under the Bombay Talkies' banner Devika Rani acted in a host of films which established her as a very beautiful and natural performer. Her role in the film *Achut Kanya*, as an Untouchable girl who falls in love with a boy from an upper caste, is celebrated to this day for its sensitive interpretation.

Both she and her husband had a vision for Indian cinema which they worked together to realise. The vision was to create a production house that would attract the very best of creative talent from all over the country — ranging from musicians to performers — to create good cinema. But Rai's sudden death in 1940 brought all these dreams to an end. A grief-stricken Devika Rani found herself with the entire responsibility of running Bombay Talkies, a task which she coped with well for a couple of years.

In 1945 the actress's life took another dramatic turn when she met the Russian painter Svetoslav Roerich and decided to marry him. At the height of her film career Devika Rani retired from films and went to live with Roerich in Kulu in Himachal Pradesh. It was here that she came into close contact with the Nehru family, including the young Indira Gandhi, since they were close friends of Svetoslav's father, the painter Nicholas Roerich.

The creative urge in her took a different turn at this point. "I made a documentary on the birds of Kulu and really enjoyed every moment," the actress recalled. But soon after, Devika and Svetoslav moved to the southern Indian city of Bangalore where they acquired a sprawling 400-acre estate on the city's outskirts and started farming "linoloi" — Mexican trees whose extracts could be made into scent or soap.

It was in this idyllic setting that the couple lived for more than 40 years during which time Devika, together with her husband, became an active patron of the arts. As the years passed, her separation from the film industry seemed more and more complete. But the last three years of Devika Rani's life were spent unhappily as the couple's failing health forced them to move to a hotel suite in Bangalore. Svetoslav's death last year made Devika Rani very lonely. They had no children.

PROFESSOR THOMAS HEWER

Thomas Hewer, Professor of Pathology at the University of Bristol, 1938-68, died on March 15 aged 90. He was born in Bristol on April 12, 1903.



TOM HEWER was a man of many parts. Tall and elegantly dressed, he brought the charm and style of an Edwardian gentleman to all his activities, along with enthusiasm, thoroughness and determination. He achieved distinction in a number of fields besides pathology, the most notable being botany and horticulture.

When pressed, he would concede that perhaps his most important contribution to medicine, made while working in the Sudan in 1933, was to discover the existence of yellow fever in Central Africa. The significance of this lay in the potential of the newly created Cape-to-Cairo air service to transport this deadly infection further afield to countries where the chief mosquito vector, *Aedes aegypti*, was already plentiful. He was then 30.

Nearly fifty years later he made another equally important contribution. On behalf of the World Health Organisation he had mounted two expeditions to the Caspian littoral of northern Iran to study why two-thirds of the deaths there were due to cancer of the oesophagus. His conclusion was that such deaths were caused by smoking opium and the widespread practice of chewing opium tardross from the pipes when the drug was in short supply.

Probably, though, he achieved even greater satisfaction from his discovery of 20 new plant species during arduous expeditions to Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan; three of them, *Iris heweri*, *Acantholimon heweri* and *Bellavalia heweri*, were named after him and he was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society.

Thomas Frederick Hewer was the eldest son of a Bristol corn merchant. While at Bristol Grammar School he made a fine collection of moths, butterflies and dragonflies which was later exhibited in the Bristol Museum. Another interest was speleology which he developed while studying medicine at Bristol University in the early 1920s. Graduating with distinction in pathology and surgery in 1927, he spent the next decade training as a pathologist, first at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, then as a bacteriologist to the Sudan government in Khartoum, and finally at the University of Liverpool. In 1938, at the early age of 35, he was appointed to the Bristol Chair of Pathology.

Working for the next 30 years as a practising pathologist and impressive teacher, he will best be remembered by his colleagues and generations of medical students for his meticulously prepared weekly clinico-pathological case conferences. In 1966 he was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the university.

He married Anne Hiatt Baker in 1941. She shared his great interest in plants and together, with the help of many medical students, they constructed a two-acre wilderness around their home in Henbury into the loveliest of gardens.

Retirement in 1968 gave him the leisure to mount overland expeditions to the Alps, Eastern Europe and the Middle East in search of rare plants, not only for his own garden at Vine House, but also for the botanical gardens of Kew, Edinburgh and Cambridge. He also gave unstinting service to the Bristol Zoological Gardens and to the English Speaking Union.

He is survived by his wife, their two sons and two daughters.

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NOEL COWARD

To laugh, to smile, to catch the infection of gaiety——sometimes without smiles or laughter; to move forward always and to move easily with just that shadow of regret which is a compliment to what is left behind; to enjoy now and then a beauty not grotesque, to be pleasantly shocked on occasion by a grotesque that is not beautiful, to feel (fairly comfortably) the lash of satire applied by a light hand——is not this to find entertainment *in revue*?

Such entertainment Mr. Coward and Mr. Cochran provide for the greater part of a long evening. There are moments in which they fall from grace, but the moments are few and the world will disagree about them. Do you incline towards deliberately ugly but extremely clever acrobatic dancing?——then you will be in the majority that enjoys the performance of Castleton and Mack. Have you a taste for the coarser backchat of policewomen?——then you will not be disappointed in "Law and Order." Would you have your satire more cruel than gay?——then you will not feel that Mr. Coward's skit on an Englishman's seaside holiday, a harsh and brilliant essay in the sordid, is, for all its ingenuity, better suited to a farce than a Pavilion *revue*.

ON THIS DAY

March 23 1928

This lively revue, which ran for over 300 performances, featured not only Jessie Matthews, who, with Sonnie Hale sang "A Room with a View", but also the dancer Tilly Losch, C.B. Cochran's Young Ladies and some eye-catching dresses by Doris Zineisen.

Every man to his taste, but for our part we should have been happier now and then for more sugar and less pepper in Mr. Coward's dish. Not that his satire is unwelcome. It seems to be a question of how that satire is to be applied——whether dolefully as on the English beach or with a saving glitter as in the masked dance of Miss Lauri Devine. The satire of that dance and of Mr. Oliver Messel's mask is as savage as you please, but its impact is the prick of rapier, not the battering of a bludgeon.

So let us turn from the heavy satire to the light, and from what is ugly to what is, indeed, graceful or beautiful or witty. Mr. Sonnie Hale distinguishes himself continually, but nowhere with a pleasanter wit than in his elaborate introductory speech to a *ballet* that is, after this, a disappointment. Wherever there appears that platoon of easy competence called by Mr. Cochran "Mr. Cochran's Young Ladies" grace and gaiety appear with it. Miss Jessie Matthews, though inclined early in the evening to overdo the cult of ingenuous insipidity, increased in vitality as time passed and ended by dancing as prettily as she looked. Miss Maisie Gay, appearing in many parts, won a strange, cruel triumph with a luring song——"It Doesn't Matter How Old You Are," and afterwards mellowed her characters with many a glow of rather gentler humour. But the great pleasure of the evening is in a little group of dances, to which the prelude is a song by Miss Jessie Matthews on the dancing of the past. "Teach me to dance as Grandma danced sixty summers ago"——and there, in the lovely dresses of Miss Doris Zinkeisen, are Miss Tilly Losch in a polka and mazurka, and Miss Jean Barry with Mr. Jack Holland in a waltz. Here are gaiety and beauty hand in hand. Miss Barry in all her appearances is good——indeed, if the evening belonged to any one performer, it belonged to her——but in the waltz she surpasses herself. How sad it is to come back from the old music to the new, even when the new has the swiftness and energy of Mr. Coward's! How mournful to forsake the ancient elegance for the self-conscious angularity of even the most sparkling grotesques!

Serious money going begging

Sex and violence are taking second place to history in the burgeoning film business — and Britain, says Roger Graef, should make sure it benefits from the trend



Anthony Hopkins in *The Remains of the Day*: a film about Britain, starring British actors, but made with American cash

Earthquakes apart, the most unusual thing about this year's Oscars is the number of films involved which address serious themes. Any grownup going to the cinema recently may have been delighted to discover the raft of new movies aimed at them: *Schindler's List, Philadelphia, Short Cuts, The Age of Innocence, In the Name of the Father, The Piano, Shadowlands,* and *The Remains of the Day* challenge virtually all of the assumptions on which most of Hollywood has operated for the past decade. Most are long, complicated, restrained, and do not end happily. Many have no violence or sex scenes at all.

This willingness to treat the audience as adults is not just a cultural revolution: it is a commercial recognition that the audience of baby boomers has grown up. So too has the brat pack of directors and performers. This change is welcome for those of us who love going to the cinema. But for the British cinema and television industry, the implications are less straightforward.

> British directors have made fortunes for Hollywood studios

On the one hand, such films rely heavily on British talent, as the Oscars have shown in recent years. (It was accepted by most industry insiders that it was the American actors' turn to win this time). But the vast majority of the backing for these films has come from America — which means the profits and many British film-makers and performers have gone there too.

This is a loss on several planes. The drain of talent is self-evident. While ministers mock complaints about lack of support for British cinema by urging them to make films that please the audience, British directors like Alan Parker, Tony and Ridley Scott, Stephen Frears and Adrian Lyne have done that in Hollywood, making fortunes for themselves and American studios that would otherwise have brought revenue to the Exchequer.

Moreover, the lack of adequate distribution and marketing resources here has meant that British films miss their paying audiences in Britain itself: *The Crying Game*, sponsored by Channel 4, made an astonishing $65 million in America but did almost no business here.

What made *The Crying Game* even more special was not only its style and unusual ending, which Miramax used to great advantage in its brilliant marketing strategy in the States, but its relevance to contemporary Britain.

Another American hit last year was *Howard's End*, also backed by Channel 4. It was a more predictably British "product" of what has been harshly dubbed the Laura Ashley school of film-making, a school that should be given government backing, if only for promoting tourism. Perfected over a number of fine films by Ishmael Merchant and James Ivory, it was followed by *Remains of the Day*, to my mind their best film yet. That led not only to more Oscar nominations, but to a contract with Disney.

Serious film-makers doing intelligent films are now recognised as big business. As David Puttnam says: "If you keep costs under control, serious films can reasonably be expected to gross $35 million at a time. This is good money by anyone's standards."

While mines and steel works close, heavy industry, and even banks lay off workers by the thousands, the audiovisual sector (including cable, video and television) is now offering the biggest potential growth of employment in Europe. Already 940,000 skilled workers are part of it: a further two million jobs are predicted by the year 2010. The lion's share will go to countries geared up to take advantage of a market expected to triple in size. (The other two global growth areas are biotechnology and energy — both of which have benefited from massive and consistent subsidies in Britain, and much of the rest of the world.)

The numbers are enormous: already Europe has a collective audience of 550 million. In Britain, modest investment to improve cinemas from dingy local fleapits to multiplexes with new or improved screens has transformed the cinema-going experience and brought huge rises in attendances — for the benefit of largely American studios, distributors, and cinema owners. In the next 20 years, some 1,500 more films are expected to be made in Europe, to be shown on 883 new television stations. No less than 72 million more homes are expected to be connected to cable and satellite stations, while the number of telephones and PCs capable of receiving audiovisual input are each expected to reach 150 million. This is a communications Klondike.

The minister in charge of cinema, Peter Brooke, seems to recognise the merits of encouraging more local investment, and next month will announce what may emerge as a positive strategy, long overdue. But he will have had to persuade the Treasury that what is needed is not subsidy but favourable tax incentives to produce revenue, employment, tourism, and growth.

IMPACT, a group of concerned UK professionals, last week launched their campaign to promote a new form of tax breaks of the kind common in many other countries. Next week, the EU will be asked to promote similar funds to promote Europe-wide productions that can share in the £50 billion audiovisual bonanza ahead.

One cannot be too hopeful of a positive response from a government so indifferent to the arts and broadcasting. It has caused cuts and damage from large orchestras to local drama groups to squeeze £3.2 million from the Arts Council — the price of one Challenger tank. ITV and the BBC are still suffering from efforts to generate more money for the Treasury.

And yet here is a chance for Britain to profit as a nation, as a work force, and generate revenue for the Exchequer. Will they be nimble enough to park their prejudices and seize the day? If this were an old-fashioned crowd pleaser, of course it would have a happy ending. But don't hold your breath, we're dealing with reality.

New Asian daily

NOT satisfied with a column in *The Daily Telegraph* and a stint in the editor's chair of *The Oldie*, Donald Treiford, the former editor of *The Observer*, will write regularly for *The Asian Age*, a new 24-page newspaper aimed at Asian people in Britain and the sub-continent.

The broadsheet daily will be printed in India and Britain. Launched by M.J. Akbar, a former aide to Rajiv Gandhi, the paper has backing from Ram Reddy, an Indian industrialist-publisher, and will have an initial print run of 16,000.

Scots plea

THE Scottish Film Council is urging the BBC to inject £28 million directly into its production base north of the border to correct what it considers a big imbalance in the way the corporation distributes its licence-fee income.

The council says Scotland has 9 per cent of the UK's population, but attracts only 3 per cent of the BBC's network production budget.

Radio Bob

STRESSED? Radio 3 is to broadcast six hours of relaxing "ambient" sounds after closedown at 12.30am on *April 2* as part of an experimental series. Subsequent half-hour transmissions, based on recordings of the dawn chorus at Stonehenge, and journeys through the New Forest, will go out daily at 6.20am and at the end of the day for a week.

Planet 24, which makes Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast* and is part-owned by Bob Geldof, the rock singer, will provide the recordings.

Techno miss

COMPANIES pouring millions of pounds into interactive television have misread how families use technology and could be wasting their money, says Bill Dutton, director of the Economic & Social Research Council's research programme on information and communication technologies.

Citing the failure of Prestel, an electronic information service, Mr Dutton argues that only between 5 and 10 per cent of the population actually want an "encyclopaedia of information at their fingertips".

Multimedia companies would do better to focus on developing ways in which people can communicate with each other rather than on a database, he concludes.

War stories

THE FIRST feature-length documentary produced by the British Forces film units during the Second World War is to be given a rare public screening at Britain's inaugural International Documentary Film Festival in Sheffield this weekend.

Desert Victory, released in 1943, is to be shown as a tribute to all camera crew and directors who have filmed in combat conditions during wartime. Seventeen army film and photographic unit cameramen attached to the Eighth Army were either killed, wounded or captured while making the film, about the 1942 El Alamein blockade.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

Perceived authenticity can boost a car's sales, says Alan Mitchell — so Rover should go for Sherlock Holmes and crumpet

Gearing up for the heritage sale

Stormy protests at the British Aerospace shareholders' meeting last week failed to stop the transfer of Britain's last car maker into German hands. Protesters say that BAe has sold British industry down the river. Even if the charge is true, the ironic marketing twist may be that Rover — as a "British" brand — could go from strength to strength.

Scotch whisky, French wine, Swiss watches: despite the frantic globalisation of business, in many product categories marketers still have to sell their brands' national "provenance" if they want to persuade the consumer to part with his money. In fact, the faster multinationals drive us towards global production and global brands the more we consumers are seeking the "authenticity" that comes from brands with a genuine national or regional heritage. Thus lager marketing in Britain today is all about selling that particular brand's national origins. Likewise, huge global brands like Coca-Cola, Levi jeans and McDonald's are successful partly because they represent all things American.

It's not a universal trend, of course. Many global consumer brands — Pampers, Nescafe, Lux — have been carefully denuded of any national baggage: the same nationless product is sold under the same name throughout the world. Ford's Mondeo is a case in point. It is, Ford boasts, the first genuinely global car, designed and produced on a global basis.

Rover is different, however. While the Mondeo is "bland, anonymous and successful", the current Rover range of cars is "English heritage on wheels, a motorised version of a stockbroker's home in Surrey, complete with all the paraphernalia of the English tradition, Burberry, Sherlock Holmes, crumpets and all," comments identity expert Wally Olins. (Never mind that the chassis and engine are Honda-based and the manufacturing methods are Japanese.)

Why do such national stereotypes matter so much? Partly because consumers have developed clear views about attributes such as Japanese quality and German engineering. A recent worldwide study of 20,000 consumers by US advertising agency Bozell showed that if a product is sold as "Japanese" or "German" it comes with a commendation for quality. "Products don't start on the same basis in each market. There is often a positive or negative predisposition towards manufactured goods based upon country of origin — it plays a pivotal role in how a product is perceived," says Chuck Peebler, chief executive of Bozell Worldwide.

Thus, when Audi was trying to establish itself in Britain during the early Eighties, its ad agency, Bartle Bogle Hegarty (BBH), deliberately played on its German engineering heritage.

Such imagery needs to be carefully handled, however. Consumer perceptions are far more subtle than the simple stereotypes suggest. In a recent project, international design firm Tilly Cato Gobé Desgrippes presented consumers in different countries with hundreds of visual images, asking them to use this visual language to build a composite picture of the BMW brand.



Mechanistic, disciplined or merely efficient? The public's image of BMW

The picture below shows the images they chose. On the positive front, there is a tremendous respect for German engineering, its competence, efficiency and its discipline, says Mac Cato, of the agency. "The brand stands for power and control." But the image is also double-edged — excellent for driving — but also cold and militaristic. "Even the people look machine-like," Mr Cato says.

Significantly, Audi's latest advertising shifts the focus from the car's engineering to the driver. "The Japanese and even the British have caught up somewhat, and being German is becoming seen as being expensive," says BBH managing director Simon Sherwood.

So what should BMW do with the Rover brand? The experts agree — play its Britishness for all it's worth. Brand names like Rover and Vauxhall, unique to Britain, can be extremely valuable, says Vauxhall commercial director, Peter Batchelor. "The Vauxhall brand stands for tradition. Deep down, people want to associate with it. They feel they are supporting their own" — even though they know it is owned by General Motors, he says.

Mr Sherwood agrees: "Rover is one of those brands that reaches back a long way in motoring. If I were BMW, I would spend even more money on building its unique British heritage."

But isn't it absurd for a German company to start marketing Britishness? Not at all. Modern marketing is all about international companies internationally marketing brands which have been deliberately impregnated with apparently national characteristics.

For proof, look outside cars to the drinks market. IDV, a subsidiary of GrandMet, sells Spanish sherry and Portuguese port to the British, Scotch whisky to the Japanese and Italian Cinzano to the Americans. British GrandMet also sells Americanness to the world through its Burger King retail chain.

Selling national brand images does not always work. In an attempt to manufacture an instant heritage for its Aqua Libra flavoured water brand, GrandMet created a special Geneva subsidiary called Callitheke for it. The idea was to give the brand the aura of a Swiss health spa. Now it's up for sale.

Paul Curtis, president of International marketing at IDV, says that consumers increasingly want proof of the brand's "genuineness". "Unless a brand has genuine roots with real heritage, its credibility as a brand is always under pressure. Only if it has got genuine provenance can people believe in it."

In which case, BMW selling Rover's Britishness is fine. But making Rovers in Hamburg just won't do.

In the new visual age, every picture sells a story

Graphics are coming into their own as newspapers compete with other media to explain the news

The frequency of mortar bombs being aimed at Heathrow's runways and of bodies being found at 25 Cromwell Street has been mirrored in the past few weeks by the many graphic illustrations in national and regional newspapers to aid reader understanding of the stories. But despite the obvious and practical appeal of a graphic illustration — displaying the unphotographable — the trend is not a temporary one.

Mike Riches, executive editor (pictures) at the Press Association, says: "When we first started putting out graphics on the wire or direct to computer, everybody was using them but three years ago, there was a lull. Now they are being used again with a vengeance: page designers are realising that a lot of grey type is not attractive, that new, younger readers are not keen on large slabs of text."

The problem for a news desk presented with stories such as the "House of Horror" is that while a plethora of words is usually available, little dramatic photographic evidence can be arranged. Yet most newspaper research shows that readers look first to images in newspapers (headlines comes next, stories themselves come only after smaller headlines).

A graphic offers a chance to provide an image as potent as the perfect photograph. So what is a graphic? Sixteen years ago in his seminal work, *Pictures on a Page*, Harold Evans, then editor of *The Sunday Times*, said that the graphic "at the simplest level is the X which marks the spot on a simple map". He went on to elaborate the division between information and "flavour" graphics.

At the time, *The Sunday Times* was seen as a pioneer in its approach to graphics; these days few doubt their impact. Since then, computer graphics have become the norm as the costs of hardware and software have fallen radically.

This technology allows for far quicker creation of graphic material. Once an image has been stored on a computer, it can be pulled out and updated in minutes.

The prevalence of electronic graphics is said to have led to a fall-off in quality. Few practitioners believe this. David Driver, head of design at *The Times*, says: "You are able to create more quickly, and you can follow a house style. In America this has led to a uniformity, but that is not the case here."

Richard Burgess, deputy graphics editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, says: "There are a lot more graphics around because of computer improvements. These days you can get a reasonable image on screen. Computer graphics are now a lot more flexible.

"It's very important to go out on a story. Once you've 'seen' it, you can be more accurate when you come to draw. Sometimes you have to send a photographer, but you never quite get what you need. It is much easier if you've been there."

Paddy Allen, *The Guardian's* graphics editor, says: "Yes, we should be called graphics reporters, not graphic artists. We spend more and more time checking and referencing stories now. But I don't agree that you have to be out on the story. It's often better to be 'video-grabbing' images from television and standing with your computer and the on-line services."

Allen believes that graphic artists should write their own copy: for the Gloucester body search and the Heathrow mortars, this was the case. "Reporters are getting better", he says, "but they still often come back from a story and can't describe exactly what they saw. With the mortar attacks, we wanted to explain precisely what was going on, so we talked to the RUC then wrote the copy."

At *The Independent*, Michael Crozier, associate editor (design), says: "When I started on *The Independent*, there was one baby Apple Macintosh. Now we have eight monster Macintoshes."

The diminution in computing costs means that the graphics revolution has spread beyond Fleet Street. "Few regional papers had a graphics editor a few years ago", Crozier says, "and if they did it was for advertisements." Now most accept the need for sophisticated graphics and many take their images directly from wire services.

Riches comments: "The regional press use our graphics as received. Often an image is used again months later with a different story. A graphic of a tank for the Iran-Iraq war turned up recently to illustrate a story on Bosnia."

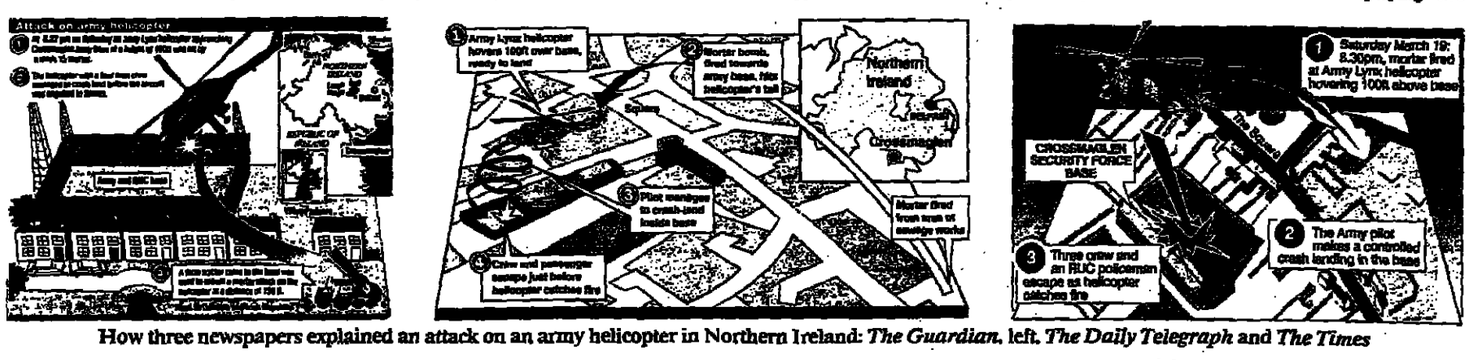
But some regional newspaper groups want to be more than conduits for wire services. Thomson Regional Newspapers recently announced it was employing two American graphics experts, Jim Jennings, from a Kentucky newspaper, and Jeff Goertzen, a graphics freelance, to work on the group's 50 newspaper titles. Goertzen believes that graphic artists should be treated as reporters, going on a story they are to illustrate and writing the captions and explanations from their own research.

Jennings says: "This isn't the death of the writer but it might be that 40 per cent of his or her words need to be represented, rather than written. You have to find different ways of presenting material."

How practical would this be? Driver has a team of six artists, two of whom recently won a US Society of Newspaper Design Awards medal. He believes graphic artists and reporters have to work together. "It must be done in conjunction with the writer so that narrative is not duplicated," he says. "But graphic artists are journalists, too: sometimes it is necessary for them to go out on a job. For example, one of our artists went to the scene of the Midlands air crash, which made a big difference to how he drew it."

Whatever happens at Thomson, graphics will undoubtedly play an increasingly important role as newspapers evolve to deal with the dual threat of television and computer-based news forms.

ROBIN HUNT



How three newspapers explained an attack on an army helicopter in Northern Ireland: *The Guardian*, left, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 23 1994

Major widens breach on voting

■ John Major widened Britain's breach with Europe when crisis talks in Brussels failed to break the deadlock on voting rights. The dispute looks as though it might run on for months.

In a move that delighted the Tory Euro-sceptics, the Prime Minister seemed ready to use his reluctance to budge as a card in the forthcoming European parliamentary elections. He said that he would not be swayed by "phoney threats" to delay plans to enlarge the European Union to 16 members ..... **Pages 1, 9**

Germans invited to celebrate defeat

■ German troops could be on the streets of London next spring, 50 years after Allied forces ended Hitler's dreams of conquest. John Major disclosed that, in contrast to the D-Day celebrations, Germany had been invited to help commemorate VE Day on May 7, 1995 ..... **Pages 1, 8**

Palace inventory

An urgent inventory of Buckingham Palace's art treasures was under way as police questioned a former footman about the theft of a Dutch Old Master ..... **Page 1**

Anger over Howe

Lord Howe of Aberavon infuriated MPs investigating the Pergau Dam affair by failing to prepare fully for the Commons enquiry ..... **Page 2**

'Animals' jailed

A judge ordered the detention of three gang members who acted "like a pack of wild animals" in kicking to death a man on a Cardiff council estate ..... **Page 3**

Lyell under pressure

The position of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, was put under further pressure after the Scott enquiry was told how he failed to notify the prosecution in the Matrix Churchill trial about ministerial reservations ... **Page 4**

Consultant revolt

Senior NHS consultants are threatening to leave the NHS and sell their services back to hospitals in protest at the government reforms ..... **Page 6**

Major's D-Day

John Major will get a much-needed boost in his European election campaign from the fanfare of publicity surrounding the D-Day celebrations, only three days before the poll ..... **Page 9**

Drop in the ocean

Each morning, as the tides crash into the cliffs outside their home, Shawn and Yvonne Mars check to see if their garden is still there. They live in Yorkshire, on the edge of Europe's fastest eroding coastline ..... **Page 7**

Nuclear doubts

William Crowe, the former chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff nominated by President Clinton to be the next American ambassador in London, once cast serious doubts on the value of Britain's nuclear deterrent ..... **Page 11**

Kremlin denial

The Kremlin moved quickly to counter rumours that President Yeltsin is seriously ill ..... **Page 12**

Daunting prospect

If Silvio Berlusconi and his alliance come to power in Italy this weekend, Antonio Martino will be forced to forsake the cloistered life of academe to become finance minister ..... **Page 10**

Threat of war

North Korea said that President Clinton's decision to deploy Patriot anti-missile systems in South Korea could lead to war. **Page 14**

ANC accused

Inkatha is complaining about an alleged African National Congress plot to create an ungovernable situation in KwaZulu, leading to a military takeover there ..... **Page 14**

Bishop wants a more humble abode

■ The Rt Rev Bill Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough, plans to move out of his 800-year-old palace and into a cheaper house to help efforts to overcome the Church's financial difficulties. He said: "Although abbots and bishops have lived in the palace for 800 years, it is not proper to ask clergy to give up things if I still live in that expensive house ..... **Page 1**

RICHARD AUSTIN



Alan Diaper with a 9lb lump sucker fish he caught in Lyme Bay. The fish, which has a sucker on its belly to cling to rocks, is rare off Britain

Banks: Sir Brian Pearse, the outgoing chief executive of Midland Bank, has rejected suggestions by Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, that bank managers are a thing of the past ..... **Page 25**

Insurance: Prudential Corporation, Britain's biggest life insurer, is looking to expand into China and strengthen operations in the Pacific Rim to counter the limited growth opportunities in Europe ... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 3.5 to 3201.5. Sterling fell from 80.4 to 80.3 after a fall from DM2.5198 to DM2.5102 and a rise from $1.4840 to $1.4862 ..... **Page 28**

Cricket: West Indies beat England by an innings and 44 runs in the second Test match in Guyana to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series ..... **Page 48**

Racing: Racecourse Holdings Trust, a subsidiary of the Jockey Club, paid the Levy Board £30.25 million for control of United Racecourses, whose three tracks include Epsom ..... **Page 45**

Football: Ireland's countdown to the World Cup finals begins today with a game against Russia at Lansdowne Road but with a side weakened because of commitments to clubs ..... **Page 44**

Nuclear cost: The defence expert who thinks Britain's Polaris is an irrelevant waste of money. **Page 16**

Forget tax promises: VAT on fuel, or even incompetence; the length of hair is what matters in a politician ..... **Page 16**

Jurassic wait: Why did Spielberg have to wait so long to win an Oscar? ..... **Page 17**

Historic challenge: Sex and violence are taking second place to history in the film business and Britain should make sure it benefits ..... **Page 22**

Garth to glory: Garth Brooks, the most spectacular success of the country music revival, is embarking on a British tour — along with a lighting rig the size of the Starship Enterprise ..... **Page 33**

Pru's prizewinner: Indian dance in Britain, once considered an esoteric corner, has come a long way with the choreographer Shobana Jeyasingh. She has a £100,000 Prudential prize to spend ..... **Page 33**

Glass house: Jean Nouvel's new Cartier building — a fantastical conception in glass — is likely to become Paris's latest tourist attraction ..... **Page 35**



Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, who who heads the United Nations protection force in Bosnia, was knighted by the Queen
Page 6



Anna Paquin, 11, was an unexpected star of the Oscar ceremony, winning the Best Support Actress award for her role in *The Piano*
Page 5



Corporal Hugh Britton, 24, one of the men who reached safety, described his remarkable journey through the mountain jungles of Borneo
Pages 1, 3

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Mystery of the killing fields

■ Why are wealthy tourists paying to kill endangered animals in Africa with the blessing of the conservationists?

The trauma of freedom

■ Julia Llewellyn Smith talks to Terry Waite about his struggle to come to terms with freedom

Sequels on screen

■ After the glitter of the Oscars ceremony, life in the cinema returns to more mundane levels with a spate of sequels: Geoff Brown reviews *Sister Act 2* and *Beethoven's 2nd*

An atmospheric drama set in the Midwest about a reclusive widow suspected by a small boy of possessing evil powers. *The Reflecting Skin* (BBC2, 9pm) ..... **Page 47**

Text for our times

Roger Scruton's new survey of the Western philosophical tradition, *Modern Philosophy*, has excited great interest. The rudiments of philosophy are not easy, but they can be understood by those who are prepared to make the intellectual effort ..... **Page 19**

Voice from abroad

The West should listen carefully to the proposals for creating a Eurasian "belt of stability and security" put forward by the President of Kazakhstan ..... **Page 19**

Showing respect

Les Reed was kicked to death with such violence that his injuries resembled those of a crash victim. His attackers were responding to Mr Reed's advice that they show some consideration ..... **Page 19**

BERNARD LEVIN

If the Fisons options-culture comes to dominate the world of money it will poison us all. Antidotes, please ..... **Page 18**

ALAN COREN

Remember the slap-up lunch? It was what the toffs went to, at the Hotel de Posh and it was a mountain of mashed potato with a dozen bangers poking out ..... **Page 18**

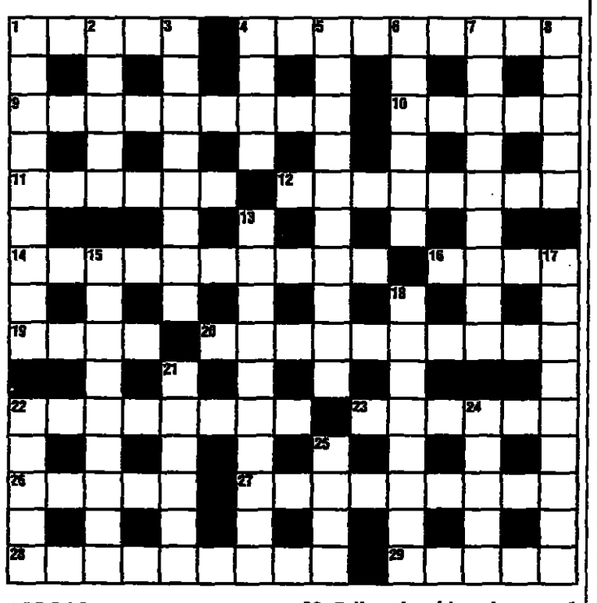
Rupert Bruce-Mitford, archaeologist; **Brigadier Jack Glennie**, who served in North Africa and Italy; **Devika Rani**, actress ..... **Page 21**

Why the Germans should attend the D-Day celebrations ..... **Page 19**

North Korea has set up a test of the world's determination to enforce the rules on nuclear weapons. Failure threatens the possibility of another kind of war
— Washington Post

The Clinton administration eviscerated the (Star Wars) program. Perhaps that decision will be reconsidered after the world spends enough time running along the nuclear brink *— Wall St Journal*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,497



ACROSS

1 Swindle foreign wife and daughter (5).
4 Turn suddenly to make a collection (4-5).
9 Farm-worker many turned to help (9).
10 Demonstrated smooth fabric (5).
11 Come back with laboratory apparatus (6).
12 Urge to send back this puzzle, perhaps? Only for a Provost of Eton (3,5).
14 Sail to pierhead with escort (10).
16 Naturally you won't find oysters in this dish (4).
19 Noble expected to defend monarch (4).
20 Instructs soldier, one who prepares for pitched battle (10).
22 Tit for tat, for example, in race on motorway (8).
23 Collected writings in part of Oxford or Cambridge college (6).
26 Boat's distinctive smell (5).
27 One special treat I have over and over again (9).
28 Holding back of French excitement (9).
29 Lifting paper with leading article (5).

DOWN

1 Like the US, defeat Red combination (9).
2 Inclined to use a canvas covering (5).
3 May dread changing ends — fancy that! (8).
4 River Don (4).
5 Use dingo in cooking for aboriginal (10).
6 Put in novel situation, deliver speech in audition (6).
7 Mutual arrangement about boy's final demand (9).
8 Way in which name's entered as benefactor (5).
13 Chocolate biscuit from Italian city (10).
15 Fish with rod — what could be plainer? (9).
17 Affected by moving air, some musicians sobbed (9).
18 Endlessly recommend swallowing a liqueur (8).
21 Financial agent bankrupted king (6).
22 Was contemplating showing doctor around practice (5).
24 Good time one had in 1993, for example (5).
25 Attend to switch (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,496

A	D	A	P	T	I	V	E		A	C	I	D	I	C
R		B		O		I		I		A		E		L
C	O	Y	P	U		C	O	N	S	T	A	B	L	E
A		S		G		E		D		A		U		V
D	I	S	C	H	A	R	G	E		M	E	T	R	E
I		I		O		N		A		R				
A	M	N	E	S	T	Y		T	A	R	I	F	F	
N		I		A				A		O		M		
	G	A	F	F	E	R		P	A	N	D	O	R	A
H		E		I		R			T		D			
A	D	M	I	T		B	E	E	K	E	E	P	E	R
S		A		Y		B		S		N		L		I
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E	R	M	I	N	E		E	T	H	E	R	E	A	L

Times Two Crossword, page 48

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouca,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heralds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Herts	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Leconfield, Humberside, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Setta Ness, Shetland, 0.71in; highest sunshine: Newcastle upon Tyne, 9.5hr.

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☐ **General:** cloudy across England and Wales, with further outbreaks of rain or drizzle. Bright spells likely over East Anglia, the Midlands and southern England, away from the coast, during the afternoon. Clearer weather will spread to most places later in the day. Northern Ireland and much of Scotland will start dull and wet, and showers over northern Scotland will edge southwards.

Blustery west to southwesterly winds will reach gale force at times over exposed western coasts, and severe gales are likely later over northern Scotland.

☐ **London, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands:** Cloudy, with patchy rain but some bright spells. Wind west to southwest, fresh. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** Cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, hill and coastal fog patches. Wind southwest, fresh to strong. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** Cloudy, with rain at times, clearer later. Wind west to southwest, strong with local coastal gales. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Central N, NE England:** Cloudy, with outbreaks of rain or drizzle, clearer later. Wind west to southwest, fresh to strong. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** Rain at first, showers later. Wind west to southwest, strong to gale. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Heavy showers, snow over mountains. Gale-force wind west to southwest, severe gales later. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** Cooler with sunshine and showers, but rain into southwest England on Friday.

MIDDAY t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain; h=hail; du=dull; g=gale; sh=shower; b=bright

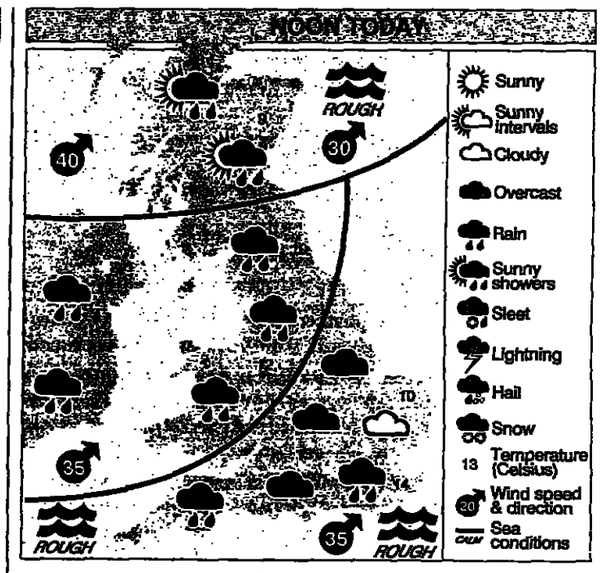
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.5	-	9	48	sn	London	6.1	0.01	10	50	b
Anglesey	4.2	0.01	9	48	b	Lowestoft	7.8	-	7	45	s
Aspatria	1.2	-	7	45	c	Manchester	1.9	-	9	48	b
Aviemore	0.7	0.01	2	36	sn	Margate	8.0	-	9	48	s
Belfast	-	-	8	46	c	Minehead	7.3	0.36	10	50	s
Birmingham	2.3	-	9	48	b	Morecambe	1.6	-	9	48	c
Bognor R	5.4	0.20	11	52	b	Newcastle	X				
Bournem'th	3.8	0.32	12	54	s	Newquay	X				
Bristol	8.3	0.18	11	52	s	Norwich	7.3	-	7	45	s
Buxton	5.0	-	7	45	b	Nottingham	2.7	-	9	48	s
Cardiff	6.6	0.57	10	50	s	Penzance	6.5	0.34	13	55	s
Clacton	6.4	-	7	45	s	Plymouth	3.5	0.28	12	54	b
Cleethorpes	X					Poole	5.1	0.26	12	54	s
Colwyn Bay	2.6	-	10	50	b	Ross-o-wye	6.0	0.08	10	50	s
Dromer	8.3	-	8	46	s	Ryde	X				
Eastbourne	5.6	0.29	10	50	s	Salcombe	4.1	0.30	12	54	s
Edinburgh	-	-	7	45	b	Sandown	3.9	0.31	11	52	s
Eskdalemuir	0.8	-	5	41	sl	Seaham Snd	5.9	0.54	13	55	s
Exmouth	5.4	0.28	11	52	s	Scarboro'	10.4	-	6	43	s
Falmouth	X	0.22	12	54	b	Scilly Isles	4.7	0.13	11	52	s
Folkestone	7.8	0.13	9	48	s	Shanklin	X	0.44	11	52	s
Glasgow	-	-	7	45	c	Skegness	7.4	-	7	45	s
Guernsey	1.3	0.17	12	54	c	Southend	7.0	X	X	X	s
Hastings	4.9	0.19	9	48	s	Southport	1.9	-	8	46	b
Hayling I.	X					Southsea	3.2	0.27	11	52	b
Herne Bay	7.9	-	8	46	s	Stornoway	-	0.08	6	43	sn
Hove	4.0	0.23	11	52	b	Swanage	3.5	0.38	10	50	b
Hunstanton	8.5	-	7	45	s	Teignmouth	5.3	0.25	11	52	s
Isle of Man	0.8	-	8	46	c	Tenby	2.2	0.60	10	50	b
Jersey	2.3	0.17	11	52	b	Tiree	-	0.05	7	45	r
Kinloss	0.5	0.04	5	41	sn	Torquay	5.2	0.20	11	52	s
Leeds	3.4	-	10	50	b	Tynemouth	7.1	-	5	41	s
Lerwick	0.2	-	2	36	c	Ventnor	5.3	0.39	11	52	s
Leuchars	0.2	-	5	41	c	West-s-mare	X				
Littlehmptn	5.3	0.22	10	50	s	Weymouth	4.0	0.48	11	52	b
Liverpool	1.7	-	8	46	b						

These are Monday's figures

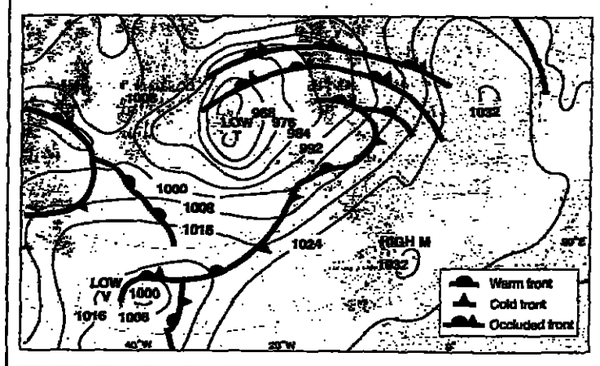
Ajaccio	17	63	s	C'phagn	3	37	f	Madrid	15	59	s	Riyadh	28	82	f
Alicante	18	64	s	Corfu	18	64	s	Majorca	15	59	f	Rome	17	63	s
Alex'dria	19	66	c	Dublin	13	55	f	Malaga	18	64	s	Salzburg	11	52	r
Algiers	20	68	f	Dubrovnik	17	63	f	Malta	24	75	s	S Frisco	14	57	c
Amst'dm	6	43	r	Faro	20	68	s	Melb'rne	24	75	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	17	63	s	Mexico C	25	77	s	Seoul	3	37	r
Bahrain	23	73	f	Frankfurt	11	52	f	Miami	32	90	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bangkok	33	81	f	Funchal	17	63	f	Milan	18	64	s	St'kholm	4	39	s
Barbados	28	84	s	Geneva	15	59	s	Montreal	4	39	s	Strasb'rg	11	52	c
Barcelona	18	61	s	Gibraltar	20	68	s	Moscow	-3	27	c	Sydney	20	68	c
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	3	37	s	Munich	10	50	r	Tangier	17	63	c
Belgrade	6	43	r	Hong K	18	64	c	Nairobi	27	81	f	Tel Aviv	18	64	c
Berlin	7	45	f	Innsbruck	14	57	f	Naples	18	64	f	Tenerife	18	64	c
Bermuda	20	68	f	Istanbul	16	61	s	N Delhi	27	81	s	Tokyo	9	48	c
Biarritz	14	57	s	Jeddah	28	82	s	N York	9	48	s	Toronto	1	34	r
Borde'x	15	59	f	Jo'burg	24	75	f	Nice	17	63	s	Tunis	21	70	s
Brussels	9	48	f	Karachi	28	73	s	Oslo	-2	28	sn	Valencia	14	57	f
Budapst	9	48	s	L Palmas	19	66	f	Paris	11	52	s	Vanc'ver	5	41	f
B Aires	22	72	c	Le Touqt	8	46	f	Peking	10	50	f	Venice	17	63	s
Cairo	21	70	s	Lisbon	19	66	s	Perth	28	82	c	Vienna	6	41	c
Cape Tn	22	72	f	Locarno	16	61	s	Prague	8	43	c	Warsaw	5	41	s
Chicago	6	43	c	L Angels	18	64	s	Reykjavik	3	37	d	Wash'ton	8	46	r
Ch'church	15	59	s	Luxembg	10	50	f	Rhodes	19	66	s	Wel'ngton	15	59	f
Cologne	10	50	f	Luxor	27	81	s	Rio de J	31	88	f	Zurich	12	54	c

X = not available

NOON TODAY



Low T will move southeast towards Norway and fill. Low V will move northeast and fill. High M will remain centred over Spain and Portugal but will decline.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9.46	5.67	10.23	5.73	Liverpool	7.28	7.50	8.08	7.76
Aberdeen	9.53	3.44	10.36	3.56	Lowestoft	6.08	2.07	6.08	2.15
Avonmouth	2.52	10.11	3.41	10.47	Margate	8.13	3.67	8.41	4.01
Belfast	7.10	3.0	7.53	2.88	Milford Haven	2.16	5.27	3.01	5.41
Cardiff	2.37	9.47	3.26	9.76	Newquay	1.15	5.4	1.58	5.5
Devonport	1.27	4.4	2.31	4.4	Oban	2.30	3.0	3.25	3.1
Dover	7.23	5.27	8.01	5.49	Penzance	12.41	4.4	1.40	4.4
Falmouth	12.57	4.2	2.01	4.2	Portland	1.37	1.4	3.17	1.3
Glasgow	8.47	4.0	10.01	3.9	Portsmouth	7.21	3.8	8.17	4.1
Harwich	7.48	3.13	8.19	3.15	Shoreham	7.28	4.80	8.06	5.20
Holyhead	6.50	4.51	7.28	4.61	Southampton	7.16	3.75	8.04	3.90
Ilfracombe	1.52	6.90	2.38	7.11	Swansea	2.20	7.40	3.01	7.61
King's Lynn	2.33	4.9	2.58	5.2	Tees	—	—	12.08	4.38
Leith	10.56	4.41	11.40	4.61	Wilton-on-Nze	7.49	3.34	8.23	3.96

Sun rises: 5.57 am
Sun sets: 6.18 pm
Moon sets: 3.35 am
Moon rises: 1.33 pm

London 6.18 pm to 5.57 am
Bristol 6.28 pm to 6.07 am
Edinburgh 6.32 pm to 6.08 am
Manchester 6.27 pm to 6.05 am
Penzance 6.40 pm to 6.19 am

Full moon March 27

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Log-cabin king stakes his crown on ensuring Bhutan's survival


King Jigme before his coronation in 1974

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN THIMPHU, BHUTAN

KING Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan, last of the Himalayan Buddhist kings, is not your average monarch. He lives frugally and alone in a log cabin in the wooded hills overlooking Thimphu, the tiny capital, while his four wives — all sisters — look after his nine children.

He refuses to install a television until all his subjects can afford one. He spurns limousines. He travels mountain trails on horseback for days on end to meet his subjects. And he is ready to abdicate.

He has assumed personal responsibility for settling a crisis in the southern part of the country that threatens the kingdom's survival. "I am not a politician. I do not make rhetorical statements. I do not make threats," he said. "If the southern Bhutan problem cannot be resolved, if a permanent solution cannot be found, then the king should be held accountable and resign."

He described this as "a pledge delivered with humility and sincerity". Speaking in the throne chamber of the Tashichleo Dzong, a monastery-fortress that is the centre of religion and government in Bhutan, King Jigme, 38, added smiling: "Even though I have four wives, I have a happy family life".

Polygamy is an old tradition but rarely practised because of the cost. Each of the king's wives brings up the children in separate houses in Thimphu.

King Jigme was born in the palace in Thimphu where his mother now lives, but says he has always preferred a simple life and does not miss what he has never had. "I strongly believe it is wrong for the king to live luxuriously when our people are poor. I always remind myself that the king is there to serve the people. It would be wrong to drive around in a Mercedes when our people cannot do the same. When the people can afford to buy a Mercedes, I will drive in one."

He insisted that he was not fighting for his own survival. "The most important factor is the future security, sovereignty and well-being of our people. Whatever I do, whatever decision I take, I will put the interests of the Bhutan people first."

The king, a basketball player and weekend golfer, succeeded his father in 1972 at the age of 17. He was educated at Summerfields School in Sussex and Heather Down at Ascot, where he knew Prince Andrew. Becoming king was "a difficult period for me" because he had not followed the business of government. "By the time of my formal coronation in 1974, I was much more confident."

Although head of government and head of state, King Jigme, like his father, has voluntarily relinquished many of his powers. He said that Western countries thought he was an absolute monarch. "But Bhutan has a very democratic monarchy. Most people think a country with a monarchy is backward and feudal. But Bhutan is more democratic than most democratic countries and definitely more democratic than any democratic Third World country."

He defended the decision to evict thousands of ethnic Nepalis from the flat, fertile south. "What is at stake is not the position of the king or the present political system. What we are fighting for is the survival of the Bhutanese people. We cannot afford to fail, because our future is at stake. If I fail I would be more than happy to abdicate."

Bhutan fears that the rapid eastward migration of Nepalis escaping poverty and land shortages will overwhelm the indigenous Drukpa, who are of Tibetan descent. King Jigme, wearing a silk *kho*, the national dress, said the indigenous population of the former kingdom of Sikkim, an Indian state since 1974, was down to 12 per cent and Nepalis had "taken over".

In Darjeeling, ethnic Nepalis were more than 90 per cent of the population. In the hill station of Kalimping, Nepalis were the vast majority and the indigenous population hardly existed.

Every school, bridge, factory, hospital and electricity pylon in southern Bhutan is now guarded round the clock because of a violent campaign by Nepal-based insurgents in a campaign to oust the Drukpa-dominated government.

According to official figures, they contain 85,000 people. Bhutan says the overwhelming majority were either illegal settlers or had entered the camps from other places to get free food and clothing.

King Jigme said Bhutan had been accused of genocide, apartheid and ethnic cleansing. "We are trying to bring our people of southern Bhutan into the Bhutanese mainstream, politically, socially and economically, which in essence means integrating all sections of our family under one roof.Our culture and traditions provide us with a unique identify to help us protect our sovereignty. That is why we give so much attention to them. We must all feel Bhutanese. Otherwise we will not survive."

Israel urges Britain to ban Hamas extremists

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ISRAEL is trying to persuade the British Government to declare the radical Palestinian group Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) an illegal terrorist organisation and to prevent anyone operating under its name inside Britain.

According to Israel radio, the Israeli authorities have passed information to their British counterparts alleging close links between Hamas officials in London and agents operating on behalf of the group in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The radio, in a report apparently leaked by Israeli intelligence officials, claimed that Britain was being used for laundering funds and transferring them to militants fighting in Israel and the occupied territories. Israeli sources claimed there was now a better chance than before of persuading the British to clamp down on Hamas following the wave of revulsion caused by recent suicide bomb attacks that killed 12 Israelis and wounded many others in Afula and Hadera.

The radio named a "senior Hamas operative" whom it said was on Israel's wanted list and was now resident in London, having fled his home in Ramallah. Other Israeli reports said that the man had moved to London in 1990.

It is alleged by Israeli officials that he briefed two Palestinian Americans arrested on arrival separately from London in 1993 with $600,000 (£450,000), supposedly for reviving Hamas after Israel had deported more than 400 Palestinians to southern Lebanon.

At the time, Israeli security officials interrogating one of those arrested, Muhammad Saleh, claimed he had confessed to being an agent sent by senior Hamas figures in London and America to help rebuild the organisation.

Britain has not yet officially been asked by Israel to outlaw Hamas, and in any case this would be impossible under existing legislation. The Prevention of Terrorism applies only to the IRA, and there is no provision under current statutes to proscribe organisations per se. As a political organisation Hamas is free, along with other Muslim radical groups, to engage in fundraising, demonstrations and political activism. The law does however give wide powers to the authorities to take measures against suspected terrorists.

Israeli sources said it was hoped that the British security services could be persuaded to place suspected Hamas members in Britain under close surveillance, investigate their financial dealings and prevent any open declarations of support for the group or its aims.

Hamas is bitterly opposed to the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Last week, in a televised claim for both the Afula and Hadera attacks from an official based in Jordan, Hamas vowed to carry out three more attacks in revenge for the February Hebron mosque massacre. The military wing of Hamas, the Ezzedine al Qassam Brigades to which the two suicide bombers belonged, is named after a Syrian guerrilla leader killed in a battle with British troops in 1935.

Britain has been accused by some Arab countries of harbouring wanted Islamic militants attempting to overthrow their regimes, notably a leading member of the Tunisian Islamic movement El-Nahda, Rachid Ghannouchi, who lives in London.

☐ **Golan call:** Yossi Sarid, Israel's Environment Minister and a senior peace negotiator, said yesterday Israel should give up its claims of sovereignty on the Golan Heights in return for peace and normal relations with Syria. This followed newspaper reports that Israel will give the Americans a peace proposal to deliver to Syria this month. *(Reuter)*

Rabin holds to course


Rabin: concern about fundamentalist attacks

Jerusalem: An Arab man attacked several Israeli bus passengers in east Jerusalem with an axe yesterday before being shot in the leg by a soldier (Ben Linfield writes). Four passengers were injured, two seriously, by the attacker and stray bullets. Police said Hamas claimed responsibility. The attack came as the Knesset opened amid concern by Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, that attacks by Muslim fundamentalists were undermining support for his peace moves with the PLO. "Peace will prevail," he said.


President Clinton driving his 1967 car during the 30th anniversary celebration yesterday of the Ford Mustang at the speedway in Charlotte, North Carolina

Water talks bring enemies together

BY MICHAEL BINYON

IN AN important psychological breakthrough in Israel's relations with its Arab neighbours, Yossi Beilin, the Deputy Foreign Minister, yesterday held talks in Oman with Arab ministers on sharing dwindling water resources in the Middle East.

The talks, part of the multilateral discussions between Israel and Arab countries set up after the 1991 Madrid conference, mark the first time Israelis have been invited to an Arab country outside Egypt. Mr Beilin also met senior Omani officials and is using the Muscat meeting for discussions with other Arab leaders on the peace process.

The rapidly increasing populations of the arid Gulf and North African states have put huge strains on water resources. The Arabs and Israelis regard water as a strategic asset; any threat to supplies could lead to war.

Despite an unofficial agreement between Israel, Jordan and Syria on the sharing of the waters from the mountains of Lebanon, each country fears the other is drawing more than its share, and tensions over the division are rising. The Israelis have refused to concede control of underground water resources to the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and the ban on drilling new wells in Arab villages is a main cause of popular resentment.

"There is not enough water to go around. The real problem is that the Arabs do not want to pay for water. They have always taken it for granted, like air," a senior Israeli official said recently. The Palestinians in turn accuse Israeli settlers of pumping water at the expense of Arab agriculture.

Israel's success in developing desalination plants could be a keystone of regional cooperation, however. Arab governments, especially Jordan which suffered from severe water shortages in Amman and the Jordan valley, are eager to augment supplies, using pipelines from Israel if necessary. The oil-rich Gulf countries are also looking at more extensive use of desalination, and Oman announced on Sunday the setting up of a research centre for cheap desalination supplies. Israel has offered to share its expertise. Mr Beilin's visit to Oman, accompanied by a small number of Israeli journalists, is seen in Jerusalem as a vital sign that the wider Middle East peace process is still on track.

Syria and Lebanon opposed inviting the Israelis to Muscat and have boycotted the meeting. Sultan Qaboos has made clear, however, that he supports the gradual normalisation of relations with Israel.

Other Gulf states are also easing their attitudes. Qatar has recently opened direct telephone links with Israel, and is to host another round of multilateral talks next month. Bahrain will host talks in the autumn.

Clinton waves farewell to Reagan's Doomsday plan

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration is quietly shelving a huge top-secret project instigated by President Reagan to ensure the continuity of the US government in the event of a sustained nuclear war.

Having spent 11 years and $8 billion working on the Doomsday Project, the Pentagon will on October 1 consign to Cold War history its elaborate plans for creating an unbreakable chain of command capable of controlling America's nuclear forces even after a six-month nuclear onslaught. The plans include securing America's civilian and military leaders in scores of secret bunkers constructed around the country, *The New York Times* reported yesterday. This fragmented leadership would be woven together by a communications system of space satellites and lead-lined "tractor-trailer" lorries equipped with advanced transmitters travelling in convoys around the nation, eluding Soviet nuclear missiles.

Most of this equipment is now gathering dust in army depots, the newspaper said. The Pentagon refused to comment on the report. Before 1983 the Pentagon's contingency plans consisted of little more than preserving the lives of America's top civilian leaders in two huge bunkers, one at Mount Weather in Virginia's Blue Ridge mountains and the other at Raven Rock mountain, near Camp David.

The Reagan Administration decided that the Soviet Union would almost certainly have targeted these bunkers, and that the US government should in any case be planning to survive a controlled nuclear war lasting months. Mr Reagan signed a directive ordering development of the Doomsday Project in January 1983.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amnesty accuses Swiss police

London: Amnesty International says today that there is "substantial cause for concern" about reports that Swiss police physically abuse people held in custody (Our Foreign Staff writes).

The human rights group says that it has asked the United Nations Committee Against Torture to look at earlier Amnesty reports on the issue. The UN committee was examining this week a Swiss government report on how it had implemented international agreements on torture.

"The report concludes that the number of allegations of ill-treatment it has received... indicate a substantial cause for concern," Amnesty says.

China offers condolences

Peking: Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, offered condolences yesterday to Taiwanese whose relatives died in a pleasure boat fire in China. He said the culprits would be punished severely, but Taiwan remains upset about the handling of the case.

Chinese authorities said initially that 24 Taiwanese tourists and eight mainland Chinese died accidentally when their boat caught fire on Thousand Island Lake in Zhejiang province last month. Three people have been arrested on suspicion of murder.

Wage riots

Medan, Indonesia: Scores of factories in northwestern Indonesia's industrial heartland were shut as thousands of workers demonstrated for pay rises after days of rioting involving attacks on ethnic Chinese. *(Reuter)*

Police suicide

Tokyo: Nobumasa Kunii, 46, a Japanese police officer in Sapporo who was distraught over losing a pair of handcuffs, committed suicide, the police said. Mr Kunii had been recently promoted to sergeant. *(Reuter)*

Fossil frog

Tokyo: North Korean archaeologists have discovered the fossil of a frog which lived about 150 million years ago at Sinuiju in the northwest, near the border with China. It is said to be the oldest known fossil frog. *(Reuter)*

Happy holiday

Kuala Lumpur: A "Home before Christmas" message in a bottle thrown overboard off Japan by an Australian took nearly six years to float 4,350 miles to the Malaysian coast. *(Reuter)*

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UK builds links with Singapore

BY MICHAEL BINYON

BRITAIN'S determination to take advantage of the markets opening up in Asia was boosted yesterday when John Major and Goh Chok-tong, Prime Minister of Singapore, set up a Singapore-British Business Group to promote exports and investment.

The group, agreed by the two leaders over lunch in Downing Street on the first day of Mr Goh's three-day visit, will comprise about 12 leading businessmen from each country. It will hold its first meeting in Singapore in six months, and is similar to Mr Major's British-India trade initiative that has led to a big increase in bilateral trade over the past year.

Singapore is a big export market for Britain and in 1992 exports rose by 25 per cent, to £4 billion. About 350 British companies operate there. Mr Goh, accompanied by Yeo Cheow-tong, the Singapore Trade Minister, will open a conference on business in the island in London this morning. Ministers may use the talks to ask Mr Goh informally to help to smooth British relations with Malaysia.

Libya drags feet in border withdrawal

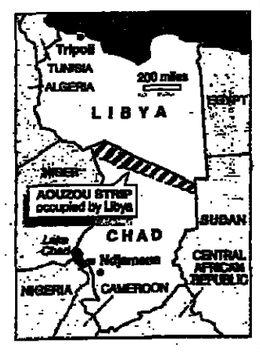
FROM REUTER IN TUNIS

ELEVEN United Nations monitors are in the Aouzou Strip, but there has been no report that Libya has started its promised withdrawal to surrender the territory to Chad, Tripoli-based diplomats said yesterday.

Libya and Chad twice went to war over the 42,000 square miles area, which is suspected of holding deposits of oil and uranium. The International Court of Justice ruled in February that it belonged to Chad. The Libyan withdrawal was scheduled to have started on Friday.

The UN team of six military personnel and five civilians, mostly from Africa, arrived on Friday. Twenty Chadian and 20 Libyan officers supervising the withdrawal arrived in Aouzou over the weekend. "There is no withdrawal yet, and most probably we will have to wait until the UN team returns to Tripoli during the next few days to know when it would start," a diplomat in Tripoli said.

Germany's anti-extremist intelligence agency said yesterday a senior German counter-terrorism officer and his wife have been murdered in Libya. Silvian Becker, 54, a Middle East expert, died in a Tripoli military hospital on April 9, several days after his wife. They reportedly entered Libya from Tunisia on March 8 and were attacked two days later in Sirte. Libya is offlimits for personnel from the intelligence agency, but a spokesman said there was no indication of a political motive for the killings. "Becker had been a North Africa fanatic for many years. We are assuming he could not restrain his curiosity and underestimated the risks," he said.



Peking yuppies turn blind eye to images of revolution

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

Posters of Mao Tse-tung, heroic-looking workers clutching the *Little Red Book* of the Chairman's thoughts, and brave soldiers of the People's Liberation Army beating back the imperialists line the walls. Enter the Black Earth restaurant, amid the high-rise apartment blocks and marble shopping malls of the new Peking, and you are back in the China of the 1960s and early 1970s. Well, almost.

The clientèle are youngish, upwardly mobile high achievers, clad in Pierre Cardin suits, and with cellular telephones lined up next to the chopsticks. There is even a new word to describe them in Chinese: *yuppie-si*. Their gleaming new cars reflect their conservative tastes. Mercedes is the vehicle of choice, although one Peking entrepreneur, Li Xiaolua, has imported China's first Ferrari. He says he prefers it to his neighbour's Rolls-Royce, adding: "It's a kind of cultural exchange between Italy and China."

Yuppies are not yet a phenomenon in Peking, which is still the centre of Communist Party power. Peking is still under the tight control of the security agencies, as is Shanghai, Canton and the other booming cities of coastal China. Yuppies here are also slightly older than their opposite numbers in 1980s' London or New York — between 30 and 40.

Northern Chinese yuppies are somewhat less sophisticated than their southern counterparts, who watch fashion trends on Hong Kong television. The women's clothes, though expensive, are often slightly mismatched. Their boyfriends' idea of after-dinner fun is to wail the night away with Canto-pop (Cantonese-language songs from Hong Kong) in an expensive karaoke bar or, in the words of one, "to hang out any place where they have XO brandy".

One such popular hangout is the Rumours disco at the upmarket Palace Hotel, owned by the People's Liberation Army. The Palace is one of the three hotels in central Peking that form the "Golden Triangle": the once staid city's entertainment mecca with plenty of yuppies in evidence. Who qualifies as a yuppie in Peking? "If you work in a state enterprise, you are not considered a yuppie," said a 28-year-old psychiatrist at the Black Earth. State enterprises are dreary.

He said that a "yuppie with Chinese characteristics" — a play on the current philosophy of "Socialism with Chinese characteristics" — works for a joint venture company, wears designer sunglasses and Italian shoes. A woman would work for a foreign cosmetics company. She would lunch at the Windows of the World, on top of a building where many upmarket joint venture offices are sited.

What of the portraits of the Great Helmsman surrounded by rubicund peasants? For Mao, one supposes, yuppies would be anathema. Perhaps they mean little more than pictures of Che Guevara once did in a Western setting. Mao, after all, urged the middle classes to "learn from the workers and peasants" — hardly a yuppie goal. Yuppies belong to a generation in China without ideology.

Missiles arrive in Korea

FROM REUTER IN PUSAN

TWO American ships carrying Patriot air defence missiles arrived in South Korea yesterday as part of United States moves to boost the South's defences against communist North Korea.

American officials said between three and six batteries were sent to South Korea. A battery consists of eight launchers and 64 missiles. President Clinton ordered the missiles to be sent to guard South Korea against possible attack by the North, locked in a stand-off over its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Seoul, only 30 miles from the border, is highly vulnerable to missile attack. Patriot missiles, requested by General Gary Luck, the US commander in South Korea, were used during the 1991 Gulf War to intercept Iraqi Scuds over Israel and Saudi Arabia. North Korea possesses variations of the Scud.

The United States has also sent Apache anti-tank helicopters to the South. The North has said that the decision to deploy the missiles in the South could lead to war.

Poorer than our parents

A whole middle-class generation now feel worse off than they ever expected



MARGOT NORMAN

WHOSE house were you in when the music stopped? Where were you when the pipers at the head of the house-price bandwagon suddenly did a quick-tempo skirl to play out the Eighties and then packed up their instruments and went home? Surely they were just having a break, surely they'd be back after a pint or two to resume the jig the whole country had been listening to for as long as anyone could remember?

Could anyone remember not hearing that tune? Not the young ones who had just bought their first home when the pipers fell silent, certainly, nor their parents or even their grandparents: "Put your money in bricks and mortar, dear," went the old tune, "there's no safer hedge against inflation."

Well, the bandwagon is still stalled, the musicians are still not back, and last night the Financial Secretary to the Treasury was doing his utmost on *Panorama* to convince us all that we'd never see those musicians or hear their cheery tune again. He was having a hard time, because the tune he wants us to sing is so unfamiliar. "Don't go into property to safeguard yourself against inflation because there won't be any inflation to safeguard against," is, to the British property-owning democrat, so atonal as to be unsingable.

Even Stephen Dorrell himself must be promulgating this new anthem in much the same way as the Russian reformers sang the democracy-and-free-market tune, just at the time our property-pipers packed up; that is, from the conviction of faith rather than experience.

The mustard-keen reformers of Russia and central Europe sang all the more heartily because they had no real understanding of what they were singing about. I bet the old tune was the one Mr Dorrell learnt at his father's knee, the one he applied to his own property transactions and still, emotionally and instinctively, finds himself humming.

I asked whose house you were in because the perception matters so much in terms of breaking the old cycle of expectation. You were in your own house, I expect, but was it your "first-time buy", which was then seen less as a home than a stepping-stone? Were you poised to step smartly off it into something approaching a home, but still two moves away from the home by which you, the bourgeois, actually imagined yourself being defined both in the world's eyes and your own? Was it, in short, the epitome of your middle-classness?

Yolande Barnes, head of residential research at Savills, the estate agents, naturally has as strong a professional interest in talking up house-price expectations as Mr Dorrell has in talking them down. Nevertheless she is genuinely sceptical of the Treasury's assurances about having learnt the lessons of the Eighties boom, because she sees that people's expectations haven't changed. They went on rising through and despite the recession, so buyers turn up their noses at the real bricks and mortar now on the market and queue instead at the site offices of the few new developments, buying their dreams off the architects' plans. Upwardly mobile dreams, naturally.

How many years will it take for those expectations to change, to revert to those of the grandparents or even great-grandparents who expected to set up one home and then stay in it?

Meanwhile, the middle classes exchange rueful and puzzled gossip about what Mr Dorrell described as "the mis-allocation of resources" that led them to be caught in the wrong house when the music stopped. What does he mean by that splendid phrase from the Office of Circumlocution? If they hadn't "mis-applied" their resources during the boom, however does he suppose they would have got a roof over their heads?

It is not just the people who in retrospect shouldn't have bought who are puzzled: the co-habiting couples lured into doing so by Nigel Lawson's disgraceful carrot of double mortgage tax relief to keep the market buoyant; the right-to-buy beneficiaries who are now stuck paying outrageous service charges because the building societies have thought better of lending to anyone who might take the property off them; those who wrongly thought they had a secure job.

IT IS the people who appeared to have every right to such expectations, steady types such as doctors and teachers and university lecturers following precisely in the footsteps of their fathers, who now ask "What happened? How come my father could buy that splendid house in Hampstead and I'm stuck in this beastly dump?

"How come the middle classes for further back than I can remember were allowed to have these expectations, and suddenly I'm misapplying my resources? Is it just because the music has stopped, or has the harbinger of the classless society already abolished the middle class?"

Ian Brodie on the clash between the two women in Bill Clinton's life



Bill Clinton's mother, Virginia Kelley (left), was shocked when she first saw Hillary: "No make-up. Coke-bottle glasses. Brown hair with no apparent style," she sa's

When Hillary met mother

The moment many men dread, of bringing their intended bride home to mother, went badly for Bill Clinton. There was an immediate and extended culture clash between the salty survivor of five marriages to four men and the cool, brainy law student.

The initial tension between the two women in the President's life is recounted in his mother's posthumous memoirs, which have just been published in America. When Hillary Rodham first walked through the door of the modest Clinton family home in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in the early 1970s, Virginia Kelley writes that she "didn't know what to think".

Until then, she had been used to a "never-ending procession of young ladies" parading through the future President's life: "They were all beauties in the classic Hot Springs beauty-pageant mould. This was the image of womanhood my boys grew up with — starting at home with their coiffured and painted mother."

Hillary was very different. "No make-up. Coke-bottle glasses. Brown hair with no apparent style." Bill and Hillary, who had met at Yale, were "very much of their time" — which meant scruffy hair, T-shirts, jeans and sandals.

Mrs Kelley says she and her younger son Roger, who was almost 15, tried to be polite, but their expressions gave them away. "The minute Hillary went to her bedroom to unpack her bag, Bill shot us a withering look. 'Come here, you two,' he said. He got us into the kitchen and told us in no uncertain terms, 'Look, I want you to know that I've had it up to *here* with beauty queens. I have to have somebody I can talk with. Do understand that?'"

Mrs Kelley says there is little she can bring to her own defence over the episode, other than her upbringing in the Depression-era South and never having much to do with Northerners like Hillary, who was from Chicago. As Mrs Kelley puts it: "Rural versus city, South versus North, make-up versus the natural look." There was more to it than that. The mother acknowledges she also felt intimidated by "the smartest woman I've ever encountered".

Hillary, for her part, was "quiet, cool and unresponsive". She did not seem particularly taken with Mrs Kelley, a mahogany-brown woman with hot-pink lipstick and a skunk stripe in her hair, or Roger, a budding rock musician. Mrs Kelley acknowledges: "Here she was, in darkest Arkansas, and the first people she met were acting like they wished she would hop on the next plane out."

> Bill said he'd had it up to here with beauty queens

In truth, the two women represented very starkly the two facets of Mr Clinton's character, the one warm, outgoing and glad-handing, the other intellectual and calculating, with a smiling façade that concealed deep reserves of inner strength. Yet the two women did share a driving ambition, for themselves and for Bill.

In time, he told his mother it was Hillary or nobody. She was disheartened. "I couldn't stand it. Here was this woman I didn't understand, didn't feel comfortable with. And she was all he wanted. I worried because I knew Hillary had so much going for her. She could write her own ticket, and that ticket just might not include a stop in Arkansas. If I'd been in her shoes, I sure might not've come."

Mrs Kelley prayed earnestly, but she also wished she could sit Hillary on the edge of her bath and give her some make-up lessons: "Show her how to bring out all that natural beauty she was covering up by going natural. None of that mattered to her, though."

Eventually the mother underwent a conversion that, sounds almost Biblical as she drove home one night. Bill had been complaining that she was not treating Hillary with the warmth and respect she deserved. With tears streaming down her cheeks, Mrs Kelley recognised he was right and that she was running the risk of losing him.

The moment she arrived home, she wrote Hillary a letter: "I poured out my heart to her. I asked for her forgiveness. In my mind I had made peace with her." She posted the letter and began to live again, although she does not remember Hillary ever replying or discussing it with her.

Still hoping for a happy ending, Mrs Kelley cried again when she heard that Hillary intended to keep her own name after marriage.

Eventually the tension evaporated, in part with the birth of Chelsea. Mrs Kelley considered it to be high praise when her daughter-in-law called her "a feminist who would never describe herself that way" and a woman who never allowed herself "to be demeaned or victimised or subordinated in any fashion".

Mrs Kelley managed to complete her memoirs, titled *Leading with My Heart*, with the help of James Morgan, an Arkansas writer, just a few weeks before her death from breast cancer on January 6 this year.

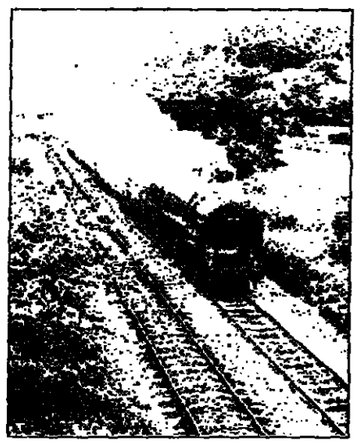
THE TIMES

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Exactly what has Barbra got?

Fans have paid £260 for a ticket to see Streisand's first London concert tomorrow. Why is she so special?

When the big American stars arrive in Britain a small red carpet is usually unrolled between the limousine and the hotel door. It is all part of the service. For Barbra Streisand, who has arrived in Britain to perform for just four nights this week, they are carpeting the whole of Wembley Arena.

When the tickets for Streisand's Wembley concerts went on sale, the arena received 53,000 phone calls in the first half an hour, and all the tickets (priced up to £260) were sold that day. A huge industry in memorabilia will have no trouble selling thousands of commemorative mugs (£10), watches (£75), and embroidered jackets (£300), and an army of fans have paid more than £1,000 pounds each to watch her every night in London. She is not beautiful, she is not dead, and she hasn't performed in England for a quarter of a century. What does she have that holds people in such thrall?

> 'She is living proof that you can do anything'

Ruth Davison, one of the fans going to all four concerts, explains: "She is not just a singer. She is a role model — the living proof that if you believe in yourself, you can do anything you want. She had a terrible childhood, but she was determined to succeed. She is an inspiration to us all."

In common with many Streisand fans, Ruth Davison does not immediately offer the singing as an explanation of success, but dwells on the personal strengths, the sort of things that would have an Oprah Winfrey audience on their feet and cheering. "Her mother told her she was ugly and couldn't sing, the press always criticize, but she is a born survivor."

It is her triumph over the disappointments of a well-publicised personal life that gives Streisand the potency of the vulnerable, something close to the tragic allure of Judy Garland, who had an equally fanatical following while she was alive, and of Elvis Presley, whose success was greater than ever during his fattest and most drug-dependant years.

After the failure of her marriage to Elliot Gould, Streisand became involved with many of Hollywood's top names, but Warren Beatty, Don Johnson, Ryan O'Neal and Steven Spielberg were ultimately short-lived escorts. And her recent dalliance with tennis star Andre Agassi, to whom she sent flowers every day during Wimbledon before being unceremoniously jilted, made Streisand, who is 30 years his senior, a figure of ridicule in the media.

Vilification on more serious grounds, at the hands of the American press, only reinforces Streisand's stronghold in Britain. At home, Streisand has been a victim of snobbery: many observers in Hollywood see her as symbolic of everything that is tawdry and wrong in middle-class, middle-of-the-road American culture. And her involvement in political and charitable events, including appearances at the White House, has been seen as a cynical attempt to jump on the Clinton bandwagon. These snobberies do not travel as far as Britain, except to underline the star's perennial role as a victim.



Streisand: she struggled, she won and she sang

Like Judy Garland, or the long-suffering Liza Minnelli, Streisand sings songs that say "love me." The emotion is unabashed and larger than life, but the response of the fans remains personal. "When I saw her in Vegas, my first time, I thought I would drop through the floor when she sang," says Ruth Davison, "but when I heard her, I felt she was singing just for me. And when I see her interviewed I understand everything that she feels. I think of her as a friend."

There is something about Streisand, a combination of the visual plainness and unsuccessful love life, that reduces the distance between her and her fans. Thousands of women genuinely feel represented when Streisand takes the stage and begins to croon. It is similar to the success enjoyed by Barry Manilow and Neil Diamond, who sing the same schmoozy numbers and possess the same very averagely attractive face.

The women who adore these men are made to feel that their romantic dreams are not ridiculous, that their love is something the singer actually need. In Streisand's case the attraction is platonic: she is by no means too beautiful to be a friend.

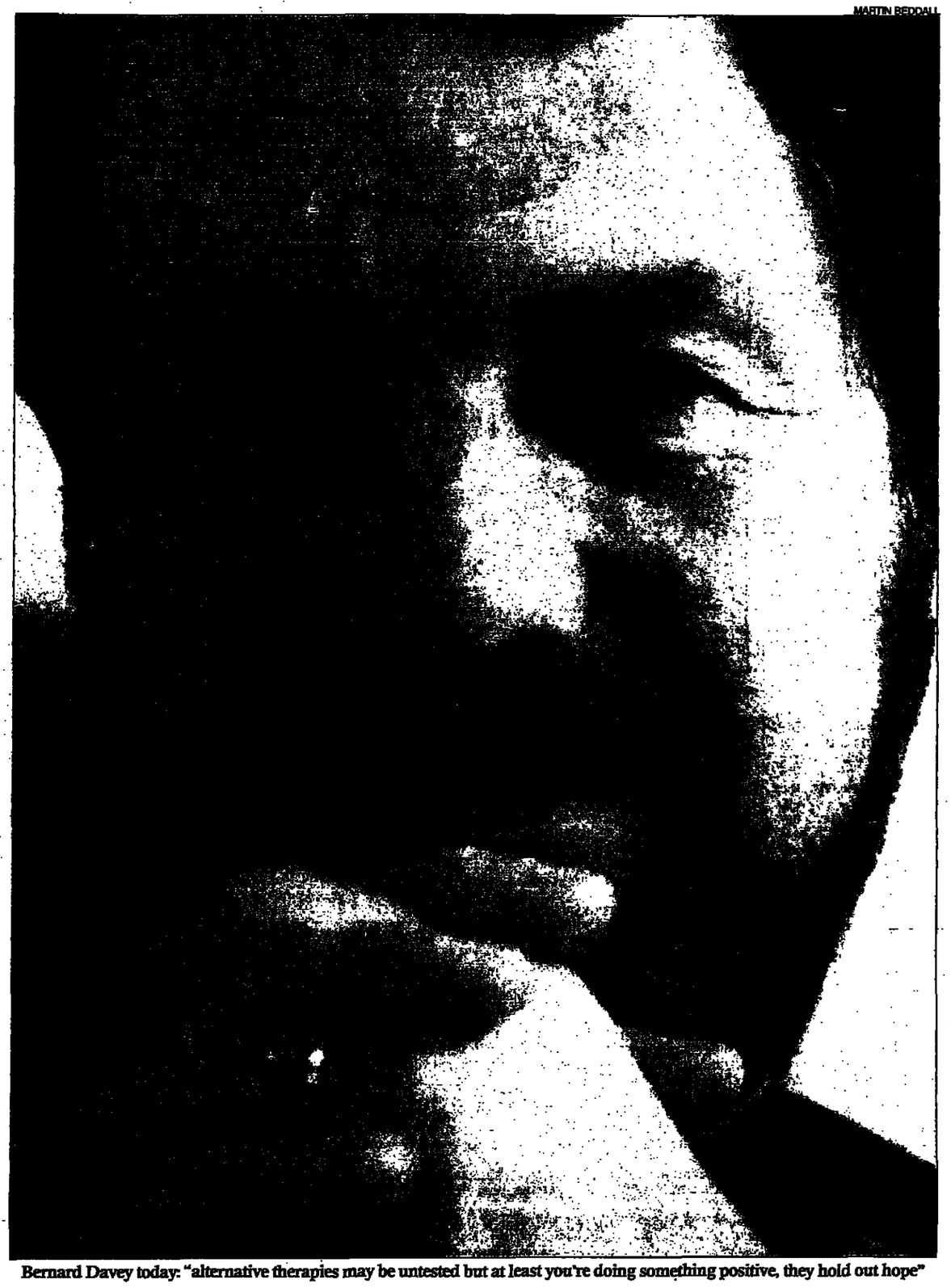
"What she does is very real, compared to people like Take That," says Lynne Pouder, publisher of the British fanzine *All About Barbra*, which has a circulation of more than 2,000 per three-yearly issue. "But despite being so approachable, she's such a huge star that fans in Britain began to think she would never come. I've had letters for years asking when it would happen, so it is the culmination of everything we have worked for."

And the prices? "I don't know why people have a problem with them. It's £60 once in a lifetime, and Barbra is worth every penny of it." This for a woman who would have been a secretary if she had listened to her mother. That early rejection is of great importance to English fans and the Wembley dates will be as much a show of solidarity as an entertainment. They will come in their droves to show Barbra's mother just how wrong she was.

GILES CORN

Bernard Davey, the former weatherman, talks to **Ian Robertson** about living with multiple sclerosis

Can hope beat the incurable?



MARTIN BEDDALL

Bernard Davey today: "alternative therapies may be untested but at least you're doing something positive, they hold out hope"



Full of energy at the Weather Centre, the job that he loved

On December 23, 1992, Bernard Davey found himself standing alone on the road outside Oxford's Radcliffe Infirmary, cut adrift by the diagnosis of "multiple sclerosis", and facing the prospect of going on air in a couple of hours to tell 17 million television viewers about their chances of a white Christmas. And broadcast he did — a member of that uniquely British institution, the weathermen — those cheerful fellows who make our world safe and predictable again after the threats and intrusions of the news.

Mr Davey has grown a beard so that he has to explain less often to people why they don't see him on television any more. He worries that it might partly be laziness. It is hard to imagine it in this vigorous, cheerful man who meets me at Swindon station and puts me, the interviewer, at ease in his relaxed Irish manner, as he drives me to his home.

But not shaving also means less water; the fine jets from the shower on his skin are excruciatingly uncomfortable. MS is a disease of the central nervous system, in which nerves are stripped of bits of their insulation, myelin: this can distort the senses to produce sensations for which words have not been invented.

No one really knows why the myelin goes, except that there is an inherited susceptibility (15 per cent of sufferers have an affected relative) combined with triggers — probably multiple — in the environment. It is a disease unknown at the Equator, too familiar in colder climates — particularly among Anglo-Saxons with Scandinavian genes.

About one in 800 people in Britain suffer from MS, but it is more common the further north you go: in Orkney, for instance, the higher incidence is thought in part to be due to Nordic genes. But first generation West Indian immigrants who have a low risk in their home countries seem to get the disease as often as native Britons, so environment must play a big part. Certain viral infections may increase susceptibility, but the role of pollutants or diet is unknown.

MS is a mystery and that makes it all the harder to come to terms with it.

Mr Davey loved his work. A perfectionist, he thrived on the challenge and time pressure of the Weather Centre, where he would typically be broadcasting every 45 minutes or so. He first became aware of something wrong, when he experienced a buzzing noise on bending his head forward, and also noticed a tingling in his fingers. The first neurologist he consulted was reassuring, the symptoms would clear up he thought; but they didn't and he was finally diagnosed with the disease on that December day. He was 50.

He was told then that there was no cure for MS and was sent away with the comment that a low-fat diet might be helpful. He was on his own. A generous man, he volunteered no criticism of anyone who saw him, but he did think it might have helped to have been given a leaflet on a suitable diet.

> Some mornings he wakes up feeling as if he had run a marathon

The feeling of having been abandoned was echoed in the letters of the many fellow sufferers who wrote to him after his illness was made public. Given the therapeutic vacuum into which Bernard Davey and other MS sufferers are dropped, it is not surprising to find the alternative medicine sector rushing to fill it with largely untested, unscientific and usually expensive treatments.

Left entirely to his own resources, Mr Davey bought a self-help guide to MS written by a sufferer, which argues strongly that alternative medicine can help. Part of the advice was to take vitamins and dietary supplements. The book's suggested regime involved taking 37 tablets a day, plus an injection of Vitamin B12 once a week. He could hardly hold his daily dose in his two hands cupped together.

Then he saw another alternative practitioner, a "nutrition consultant". He is now down to about ten vitamin pills a day on top of his fat-free, gluten-free, caffeine-free diet. This same consultant interpreted his MS as really being candida, a fungal disorder of the gut.

Strong claims are made for a bewildering range of causes of, and treatments for, MS in the book Bernard Davey used as his guide, now in its third edition and widely read. "It's very confusing," he told me. But there is always the hope that maybe at least some of the mostly untested claims in the book are true. "At least you're doing something *positive*," he said when I put the mainstream medical view of all this to him.

Another reason why alternative medicine flourishes here lies in the see-saw nature of the most common pattern of MS — the relapsing/remitting type. While 60 per cent of MS sufferers show relapses and improvements against a background of slowly worsening symptoms, 20 per cent show irregular relapses without their overall condition getting worse over time. Some of these 20 per cent may well attribute their good fortune to something they did or took around the time of an improvement which would have happened anyway.

Mr Davey himself suffers from the chronic progressive form of the disease, which means that his symptoms are always there. But he knows there are many charlatans about, exploiting the anxieties of people with MS and peddling bizarre techniques, often to do with assessing so-called allergies.

But, still he is taking no chances. If a strict diet is necessary he will follow it. He feels the need to *do* something about his illness, and would like more physicians to foster optimism by offering more positive advice.

In fact most mainstream physicians do support some dietary regimes, but what else do they have to offer and will they be able to reclaim the space that the alternative therapies have moved into?

Professor Alistair Compston of Cambridge University, an international expert and leading researcher on MS , is optimistic that the next few years will see significant advances in the treatment of MS. Although he admitted that "multiple sclerosis has a poor history of exploitation of the individual by overstating modest or ambiguous clinical results".

One recent and scientifically-respectable study has shown that the drug beta-interferon reduces the number of attacks in this usually fluctuating and unpredictable disease, as well as slowing the rate of new nerve damage shown on scans. Exactly how beta-interferon works is not known, but it may block the action of gamma-interferon which activates the immune system.

It is this activation of the immune system which may underlie the tendency for self-attack in the nervous system which results in the myelin sheath being damaged. In other words, beta-interferon may work by *suppressing* the immune system whose T-lymphocyte cells break down the barrier between blood and brain, allowing scavenging cells called phagocytes to attack the myelin sheath.

Professor Compston said caution was needed about beta-interferon, which is as yet only available for research trials, and said that other promising therapeutic options also needed to be pursued.

And while other methods for halting or slowing the advance of MS need evaluation, the possibility also exists of reversing damage by encouraging the central nervous system to remyelinate the damaged nerves through fostering growth of cells damaged in MS. At the Cambridge Brain Repair Centre, research is also being carried out into the possibilities for eventually transplanting cells into the damaged areas of the nervous system, so that even symptoms of severe MS such as paralysis could be reversed.

"For every one person with MS who does badly, two do well," said Professor Compston. He encourages his patients to take an optimistic view, which is exactly what Mr Davey has done. He paints and writes, gardens a little, but gets dog-tired too easily and some mornings wakes up feeling as though he has just run a marathon.

Fatigue is one of the curses of MS, but Mr Davey is trying to learn to pace things so that he doesn't overexert himself. He has numerous aches and pains, as well as tingling and occasional weakness in his hands. His bladder is weaker than before, and hot temperatures bring him to a grinding halt, with itching skin and terrible tiredness.

On the way back to the station, Mr Davey mentioned casually that around the time he first noticed the symptoms, he had by chance visited a relative of his wife's in America who was wheelchair bound and without speech, in the terminal stages of MS. And long before then, he used to be particularly unsettled by the MS Society poster of the paper being stripped off the back of the crouching, naked man. "I used to turn away and say to myself 'I don't want to know about that'," he said quietly, as we parted.

Mr Davey knows all about it now, unfortunately. He was clearly haunted by the image of his American relative, and by the thought that he might deteriorate like that. But, on the other hand, he might not. And being the kind of man he is, he'll see the cup half-full, not half-empty.

He is a no-nonsense, positive, un-selfpitying kind of person. He, his wife and his daughter will move back to his native Northern Ireland this year: "One door closes, another one opens," he told me cheerfully. And who knows, the gathering pace of positive findings from scientific research might catch up and surprise him sooner than he thinks.

● *The Multiple Sclerosis Society is at 25 Effie Road, London SW6 1EE. Tel: 071-736 6267.*
ARMS, Action and Research for Multiple Sclerosis is at 4a Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex CM24 8AG Tel: 0234 325781 (admin); 071-222 3123 (counselling service).

TYPES OF MS

● **BENIGN**
Twenty per cent of sufferers have a benign form of multiple sclerosis in which disability is minimal even after many years. Typically the patient is a young woman with mainly sensory symptoms and complete recovery from individual episodes. However, deterioration is possible after a long period of inactive disease.

● **RELAPSING/ REMITTING**
This is the most common and unpredictable form of the disease. Symptoms come and go, but usually against the background of a steady worsening over time. Sixty per cent of sufferers fall into this category.

● **CHRONIC PROGRESSIVE**
Only 10 per cent of sufferers have this form of MS, but it is the most common if the disease strikes at or after the age of 50. Damage is most prominent to the spinal cord. There is a slow but steady deterioration with many fewer, if any, remissions or exacerbations.

● **MALIGNANT**
This is the worst form of the disease. It is characterised by a rapid deterioration of symptoms (five to ten years). Where massive cerebral demyelination occurs it can be fatal. About 10 per cent of multiple sclerosis sufferers are in this category.

Shingles: the sting in the tail of chickenpox

Sufferers from shingles should seek help early, says **Dr Trisha Greenhalgh**

Not long ago, the old lady next door called to me over the garden fence. "Trish, look at these awful sores come up on my face". I told her that they were not sores but shingles, and she should see her GP immediately. But she did not want to bother him on a Friday afternoon, and she would not let me give her anything out of my bag. Two months later I drove her to Moorfield's eye hospital with sight-threatening scarring to her cornea.

Shingles is caused by the chickenpox virus, *varicella zoster*. You never get shingles unless you have had chickenpox in the past, although you may have had it so mildly that no one remembers it. In chickenpox, spots occur in crops until the immune system has manufactured antibodies to suppress the virus. This takes about a week, after which the sufferer (usually a child) feels better and the rash begins to fade.

After a bout of chickenpox, the virus lies dormant in a particular type of cell just outside the spinal cord. These cells are the dorsal root ganglia — the spinal connections of touch and pain nerves to the skin. Anti-varicella antibodies continue to circulate in the bloodstream for the rest of the person's life and prevent the virus from reactivating. Shingles occurs when the dormant virus outwits the body's immune system. Live virus particles travel from the dorsal root ganglia down the fibres of individual nerves and cause a rash, not unlike chickenpox spots, in the patch of skin supplied by that nerve — an area known as the dermatome.

Dermatomes occur in the same distribution in everyone, which is why shingles always follows one of several patterns. The most common is a thoracic dermatome — a two-inch stripe around one side of the trunk, roughly following the underlying ribs. Shingles is also common on the face, particularly in the V_1 dermatome — the patch of skin covering the forehead, upper eyelid and front of the scalp. This dermatome also includes the surface of the eye, which is why V_1 shingles is called ophthalmic zoster and requires a specialist eye opinion except in very mild cases. The cardinal feature of any shingles rash is that it never crosses the midline — the line down the middle of the body — because all dermatomes stop at the midline, although you could be unlucky enough to get it on both sides at once.



A shingles rash on the side of a woman's face and neck

Many people who get shingles remember being in contact with someone with chickenpox recently. It has never been proved that you can catch shingles by reinfection rather than reactivation, but I have seen one or two cases in my own practice which seem to be more than just coincidence.

All shingles attacks are caused by a failure of immunity (immunosuppression), which occurs classically in people with Aids or those on steroids, but also transiently after major surgery, during periods of stress, and in pregnancy. Failure of immunity also occurs in old age, and with certain cancers of the blood and lymph glands.

An attack of shingles in a healthy young person is usually mild and of no greater significance than chickenpox. It may indicate that the person is stressed or run down. A severe attack (affecting several adjacent dermatomes and persisting for two weeks or more) in a young or middle-aged person who is not taking steroids should raise the suspicion of immunosuppression, particularly if it recurs. Many doctors would recommend further investigation to exclude sinister underlying disease.

The main complication of shingles is chronic pain. Hypersensitivity to touch and pain can persist long after the rash has disappeared, and in severe cases a deep, burning pain in the affected dermatome — post-herpetic neuralgia — never resolves. The older you are, the more likely you are to get post-herpetic neuralgia. The antiviral drug acyclovir (Zovirax), if given early in the disease, reduces the intensity and duration of the pain.

> 'It may indicate that the person is stressed or run down'

Acyclovir is very expensive, and many doctors are reluctant to prescribe it for shingles unless the patient is immunosuppressed, suffering from ophthalmic zoster or very old.

As with other forms of intense and unremitting pain, post-herpetic neuralgia is often accompanied by a general feeling of malaise or tiredness, and by social isolation and depression. Acyclovir is useless for chronic neuralgia, and no other drug offers a miracle cure. But strong painkillers may take the edge off the pain. The anti-epilepsy drug carbamazepine (Tegretol) provides partial relief in a minority of sufferers, so it is always worth a try. Antidepressant drugs, particularly the new selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), sometimes have an effect on neuralgic pain.

Another approach worth trying is TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation), which is costly (though machines can be borrowed from pain clinics).

Shingles is neither preventable nor curable, but the misery of post-herpetic neuralgia is largely avoidable. If you think, or know, you have got shingles and you are in a high-risk group for complications, see your doctor sooner rather than later.

● *Dr Greenhalgh is a north London GP.*

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Ten days to shake the world

The Gorazde debacle could cause all-out war, **Misha Glenny** says

All those who have ventured into the Balkan mire are being slowly sucked down into the mud, waving their arms furiously in the futile hope that some passing *deus ex machina* may extract them.

This mess is very dangerous. If the UN pulls out, as its envoy Yasushi Akashi, is considering, what happens? The Serbs will advance in Srebrenica, Zepa, northern Bosnia and Bihac. Sarajevo will be up for grabs again. The Muslims will rearm and wait for vengeance. The Croats are unlikely to support the Muslims in their war against the Serbs because this could threaten the restoration of their sovereignty over the Krajina. The Croats and Muslims may start fighting again. In short, there will be a bloodbath of ethnic cleansing in the north of the Balkans which will shatter the precarious stability of the southern Balkans, creating a much wider conflict.

But if the UN stays, what is its function? To ameliorate the impact of further Serb military gains? Or to protect "safe havens"? It can only do the latter if it uses much more force. As events have shown, the UN risks fighting in Bosnia at its peril.

It is not only a mess, it is at first glance puzzling. Why have the Americans and Russians failed to prevent the Gorazde debacle and all it implies? Two weeks ago, the prospects for some form of political solution to the Bosnia crisis looked unusually bright. Charles Redman, President Clinton's special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, halted the Muslim-Croat war at a stroke. Responding courteously, Redman's Russian counterpart, Vitali Churkin, had brokered a comprehensive ceasefire between the Croats and Serbs in the Croatian Krajina. Redman and Churkin, who evidently respected each other's work, set about their next task — regulating the status of the Bosnian Serbs.

When the first airstrikes were launched against Serb positions in Gorazde, Redman was visibly disappointed at the turn of events, explaining that "it seemed we had really almost an unprecedented event in Bosnia, with both sides talking seriously of a total cessation of hostilities". He added that a diplomatic solution had "totally disappeared".

Churkin was similarly unable to contain his dismay at the behaviour of the Bosnian Serbs. "The Bosnian Serbs misled us about their intentions around Gorazde," he said.

Neither the Americans nor the Russians showed any desire to lock horns over Gorazde. Having fashioned an agreement at the time of the NATO ultimatum against the Serbs surrounding Sarajevo, Washington and Moscow were not going to muddy the waters for the sake of a small town in south-eastern Bosnia. The Sarajevo deal split the former Yugoslavia into spheres of Russian and American interest. Thus the local Balkan dispute has been internationalised by dint of the two Great Powers' strategic interests.

Had Churkin and Redman succeeded in securing a deal between the Bosnian Serbs and Muslims, this influence would be considered benign and the two would be toasting each other with champagne.

Things have gone wrong and this has led to an immediate deterioration of relations between Washington and Moscow, which in turn complicates the situation in the Balkans. Nobody is more aware of this than the Serbs and the Muslims. If either side feels it is being forced into an unacceptable deal by the political mentors, the solution is to provoke a further deterioration on the ground. The tails in Pale and Sarajevo are wagging the dogs of Washington and Moscow.

The Muslims know that for the moment the only hope they have of regaining eastern Bosnia is if NATO fights on their side — if they concede this territory in a peace deal, they will have lost it for a long time, maybe for good. Therefore, President Izetbegovic is making it plain that his government will not cease fire.

> There is no obvious exit as a political solution is dead

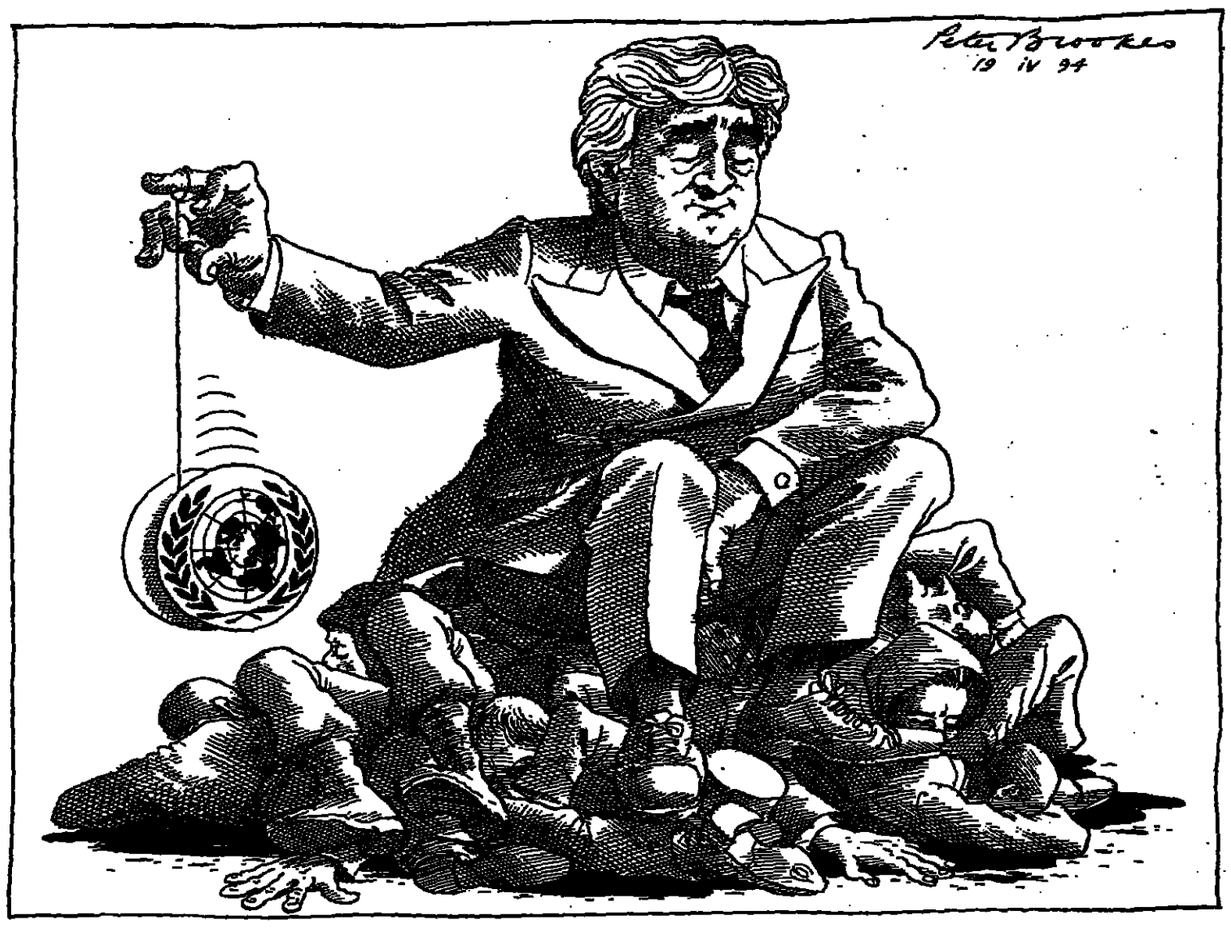
The Serbs know that if they wish to consolidate their control over the same region by wiping out Muslim resistance in the three enclaves, Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica, the Russian government will continue to support them, however reluctantly. President Yeltsin is not merely afraid of Vladimir Zhirinovsky's reactionary backlash, he also believes Russia cannot allow the United States to dictate a military solution in Bosnia.

There is now no obvious exit: a political solution is apparently dead and buried. A military solution, whether it involves the international community or not, cannot result in a stable peace.

Despite the UN arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia, the Muslims have armed themselves very ably in the past 12 months. And even if they are not in a position to roll back the Serbs yet, at some point (with support from Islamic countries), they will attempt to do so.

Without a negotiated solution in Bosnia, there are only two options for a deal between the Serbs and Croats in the Krajina — either a revival of war between the two most powerful nations in the northern Balkans, or a renewal of the Serb-Croat alliance, which means curtains for the Muslims.

The West and Russia must understand that tension in the south of the Balkans is rising both in Kosovo and the former Yuogoslav republic of Macedonia. If the northern Balkan conflict is allowed to continue, an artillery war which may breach the borders of the former Yugoslavia is extremely likely. In the space of ten days, somebody has slammed shut all the exits from the Bosnian hell. There appears to be no way out. But one must be found.



Sick of the unhealthy lies

Encouraged by most politicians, people cling to the fiction that the National Health Service comes free

Bernard Levin

Nothing will come of nothing, said Shakespeare, rather obviously. Others have pointed out the same truth, but nobody takes any notice until falls the shadow of — well of money, actually — whereupon everybody sits up and starts to make a hullaballoo. In other words, we are once again trying to believe, and with a commendable measure of success even managing to convince ourselves in the belief, that we can get something for nothing.

Moreover, we believe that we can go on getting something for nothing indefinitely, and we even believe that the something we are getting for nothing is infinite, and not just ordinarily infinite, but very infinite, indeed quite exceptionally and amazingly infinite. Where is St Paul to wag a finger at Timothy and tell us that we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out? (I'll tell you where he is — he's telling us to drink no longer water, but use a little wine for our stomach's sake, sensible fellow.)

Do you remember what the initials NTBR stand for? If you do, you must remember the almighty row that blew up when they were deciphered. For those who have forgotten, allow me to jog their memory.

Hospitals hang a card at the foot of the patient's bed, which carries important information for the nursing staff — the nature of the malady, its form, the patient's medicines, etc. A hospital which shall be nameless (it had enough grief the last time) added to a number of these cards — *but not all* — another indicator, this one taking the form of the letters NTBR. These mysterious runes were examined by a visitor to the hospital, no doubt a whiz at crossword puzzles, and were deciphered. They turned out to be an instruction to the staff, and they meant Not To Be Resuscitated. In the less clinical form, they pointed to some patients who were very unlikely to live long, and for whom, therefore, it would be a waste of the time and nursing that could be used to save a patient who was likely, if fully treated, to survive.

The uproar could be clearly heard as far as Jack the Ripper, and stern ukases went out to see that nothing so dreadful should ever again be countenanced. The ominous cryptogram was seen no more, but it is certain that the practice, in one form or another, continued, for the very good reason that there was neither time nor staff to deal with all the patients and that therefore the undoubtedly moribund must, to be blunt, go to the back of the queue.

Hippocrates forbid that I should get into the shouting match among the doctors, the hospitals, the patients and that man whose name I can never remember but who calls himself Prime Minister, of all things, and for my money a touch of NTBR would do wonders for him. But whether the elderly are to be put down indiscriminately, or can stay alive if they can still count up to a hundred and get out of the bath unaided, the grim decision is regularly made in every hospital.

(Talking of hospitals, does the "slapping case", from which the law now allows childminders to smack their charges, mean that now we can all go round and hit Mrs Bottomley?)

We cannot have something for nothing. The gibberish spoken about the National Health Service would, laid end to end, stretch from here to Aldebaran: the trouble is that it *has* been laid end to end, and gets steadily longer. I cannot now remember what is the figure which, if the spending on the NHS goes on at its present rate, will be the entire GDP; every penny of public money will be going into the maw of that ravening beast, like the black hole the astronomers predict will one day swallow the entire solar system. (But I will bet anything that the cost of the NHS will swallow the very black hole itself first.)

We cannot have something for nothing. But we cannot — or, more precisely, our governors cannot — tell the truth about the NHS. The reason we cannot have the truth is that neither the Tories nor Labour can tell it, solely because the first side to tell it would be loudly, shrilly and hysterically (and mendaciously, but we won't go into that just now) denounced as the party which snatched the false teeth from the very gums of every Chelsea Pensioner in the land.

There isn't even a halfway house to the truth: the slightest sniff at it will set off the explosion. That, of course, is why both parties say — boast — that Britain has a free National Health Service. The lunacy of that oft-repeated remark is so deeply grounded that the entire nation has come to believe it; that means, put bluntly, that practically the entire nation is insane. And it is. Listen to the squeals when NHS customers are asked for part of the price of some item on the NHS shelf: the squeals are from customers (we are all customers now) who believed, and when they calm down (if they ever do) go on believing, that the NHS is free.

But it isn't, is it? Whence the black hole into which the gross domestic product will eventually fall. The politicians — both lots — are so dishonest that they even vie with each other in claiming to have stuffed into the black hole the greater quantity of money; they can hardly even say that it is to their credit that they have saved a substantial NHS sum this year, partly because it is a lie and partly because if it is said too loudly (viz., anything louder than a whisper) the other lot will scream that their opponents are dismantling — it is a regular buzzword — the famously free NHS.

Writing, some time ago, I said that the best thing that could happen to the NHS would be if it were abolished entirely overnight. As it happens, I was not on that occasion thinking of the gigantic savings that would accrue; I had strictly confined myself to matters of health, and what I said was that if the NHS *was* abolished at a stroke, the health of the nation would instantly take a vast leap upwards.

I rather think that the bogus uproar of the last few days strengthens my case for the vast leap upwards, but confining myself to the costs and such, it should be obvious (it isn't, of course) that all the allegations made among the bogus uproar were perfectly true. How could they not be?

Every senior figure in every hospital in the land knows perfectly well that there is what they sensibly call "rationing", just as, in the former hysteria, the use of NTBR signalled a different kind of ration.

If you don't believe me, for heaven's sake don't believe any of the Government's statements, and in particular don't believe any of the ministers. If you want somebody to believe, I have a perfect choice for belief: he is Professor John Grimley Evans, Professor of Geriatric Medicine at Oxford University and head of the department of clinical gerontology at the Radcliffe Infirmary, and they don't come more believable than that. He says:

> Since one expects older people not to do well if they have cancer, it is easy to overlook the fact that they are actually doing less well because they are getting second-rate treatment.

I say it again: we cannot have something for nothing. The NHS waste and indeed corruption are not the problem; the problem is what the people who use the NHS think it is for and, more particularly, where they fit into it. My Bessarabian grandmother would say — did say — *b'chinnen k'n shtinken* — which means that if it's free it doesn't matter if it stinks, a perfect description of what the NHS has become.

Just as the NTBR caused a nine-days screaming wonder (it was a mercy that no MP demanded the head of the head of the hospital, or even tried to have him charged with murder) then vanished, leaving a few echoes to pick up the pieces, so will this nine-days bowling absurdity sink, very soon, out of sight. But "rationing" by any name will not have disappeared, and couldn't even if it wanted to. For those who speak words — not necessarily MPs — first do homage to reality and then forget they have done so; but actions linger on, and have to pick up the pieces.

It has long been established that vast numbers of the people of the United States are convinced that if they eat enough broccoli and then have themselves frozen, they will live for ever (though presumably rather chilly). I think I detect something like that starting in Britain; in our case it won't be deep-freezing but something to do with the NHS. Whatever it is they will still not understand that we cannot have something for nothing.

Lara's theme is a hit

Hail a genius, says **Tunku Varadarajan**

Of course cricket is a team game. Yet its strength and spirit lie in the room it allows for individual expression. Over two-and-a-half days at Antigua, Brian Charles Lara put England's insipid trundlers to the sword, in an eloquent innings of 375 that was the batting equivalent of Derek Walcott's epic poem *Omeros*. In hooking Chris Lewis to the mid-wicket fence he soared past the game's most glamorous milestone, which every schoolboy knows by heart — Sir Garfield Sobers' 365 not out, scored against the first Pakistan side to tour the West Indies in 1958.

Lara takes his place in the cricketing pantheon alongside Bradman, Sobers, Gavaskar and Hadlee, men who captured the imagination by their exceptional skill and statistical achievements. In a world inured to collective endeavour, individual triumphs are the most stirring by far.

Sobers's innings, although made against almost equally innocuous bowling, could not have happened in more different circumstances. His country, Barbados, was still a colony, as was every other that made up the cricketing West Indies. Sir Frank Worrell, a colossus among players and the natural leader of the side, had been passed over as captain for Gerry Alexander, a white man. The West Indian cricket establishment was not yet ready to entrust its team to a black man. Sobers's knock, described as "monumental" by Wisden (with characteristic taciturnity), was part of a process that transcended the game: it was a boost to the self-esteem of ordinary Caribbean people. Worrell was made captain shortly afterwards, as West Indians were handed control of both their cricket team and their political destiny.

But Lara's innings is united to Sobers's by the brilliance of its conception. His batting method is silken, his eye unerring. There is, above all, a joy to his run-making that is uniquely Caribbean. As Michael Manley wrote, in his polished work, *A History of West Indian Cricket*: "Caribbean man is comfortable in a game which is as much concerned with style as substance; with the manner in which the outcome is pursued as with the outcome itself".

It must be recognised that neither man plundered his runs off the greatest attack in the world. Some of the bowling served to Lara was embarrassing, with Chris Lewis and Andrew Caddick the biggest offenders. Sobers had only a marginally more testing time. Khan Mohammed conceded 259 runs in 54 wicketless overs. Years later, he was to regret that he was remembered only for that disaster, and not for having bowled Len Hutton for a duck in 1954.

That was an important duck, for Hutton — until overtaken by Sobers — had held the record for the highest score in Test cricket. He scored 364 at the Oval against Don Bradman's Australians (then blissfully unattached to an Antipodean brewery) in 1938. "Tiger" O'Reilly, thought by Bradman to be the "world's best bowler ever", and Fleetwood-Smith, a left-armer capable of miraculous turn, made him earn every run. When he reached 335 (one run more than the previous record), Bradman rushed over to shake him by the hand. And then, as Howard Marshall reported on the wireless, "a dignified gentleman in a tailcoat came out and brought him drinks which, my word, are richly deserved".

Richly deserved, too, is all the praise which will be heaped on Lara in the days to come. Born in the village of Santa Cruz, he is the first great cricketer to emerge from Trinidad since Learie Constantine. Trinidadians, who love their game no less than their Caribbean cousins, have been ill-served in this regard. Tiny Barbados (which has, ironically, provided no player for the Test side for the first time in its glittering history) has bred greats by the score. Jamaica, Guyana and, more recently, Antigua have all pulled their weight. But Trinidad has not.

The most prosperous island in the Caribbean, thanks to oil and natural gas, its sportsmen have been the least "hungry". And wealth from oil brought with it an early exposure to North American influences, whose meretricious allure has — increasingly — muscled out the sedate charms of cricket.

Lara's innings will help to protect cricket in the West Indies. There is nothing more magnetic than the arrival of a champion, and there is no greater champion in cricket than a batsman who conquers. Whatever Curtly Ambrose and the galaxy of great bowlers before him might say, cricket is a batsman's game.

Lara is only 24, and he kissed the pitch after his milestone with the reverence of a besotted boy. Lara has the panache of Toussaint L'Ouverture — the Haitian who vanquished Napoleon's generals in battle — and the gleeful intelligence of Anansi, the mythical spider of Caribbean folklore, who protected slaves from bodily harm. Above all, he exudes the self-confidence of the modern Caribbean man.

An art for the part

NOW settled in the chairman's office at the Arts Council, Lord Gowrie is losing no time in finding someone to perform the distracting task of actually running the council. Yesterday, therefore, he held his first interviews to replace Anthony Everitt as secretary-general.

First up were Tim Mason, chief executive of the London Arts Board, and Mary Allen, Everitt's deputy of the past two years. Another on the headhunter's list — Roger Taylor, chief executive of Birmingham City Council — was asked, but declined.

Mason and Allen are both ably equipped. Mason represents 150 of London's smaller arts companies and has the advantage of having publicly praised Gowrie on his appointment. But he has also been an outspoken critic of the Arts Council, particularly its on-off grant cut to the London orchestras.

Allen, who used to be an actress, would be the first woman secretary-general since the formation of the Arts Council nearly 50 years ago.

Former arts minister Sir Richard Luce warns that the post can be an exacting one: "He or she will need diplomacy, a fresh mind and the ability to manage and lead people. Good chemistry with the chairman helps."

Playwright David Hare, however, subscribes to the widely-held view that there is no ideal candidate for such a hapless task: "You need someone who is open-hearted, someone who thinks it's a blessing to give rather than to receive."

● *IF THE performance of Kenneth Branagh in Sunday's London Marathon is anything to go by, the British film industry is in pretty decent shape. Branagh cruised in with a time of 4 hours 54 minutes, almost an hour faster than Peter Winterbottom, who until last year played flanker for the England rugby team. Branagh, apparently, built up his stamina jogging round Shepperton Studios, where he has been filming* Frankenstein.

Knocking on No 10

SHARES in Virginia Bottomley plc may be plummeting, but the stock of her able deputy at the Health Department, Brian Mawhinney, rises daily. He is justifiably talked of as Cabinet material, but John Major is also considering a rather different role for the Ulster-born MP who has been a close friend since they entered Parliament together in 1979. Come the summer reshuffle, the Prime Minister may make him a sort of *chef de cabinet* or supra-political aide.

His duties — and title — were the subject of conversation over a curry at the Bombay Brasserie in Mawhinney's Peterborough constituency a fortnight ago. A highly placed source confirms that, following their talks, the most likely option is for Mawhinney to be a minister without portfolio, with an office at No 10.

Since the Commons returned last week, Mawhinney has been quietly gauging reaction from his colleagues. One says: "He cites the case of Angus Maude, when he was a minister (Paymaster General) and Thatcher's aide when she first went to Downing Street."

On Thatcher's list

BARONESS Thatcher never had much time — or inclination — to go to the cinema during her tenure of 10 Downing Street. But last Wednesday, apparently, she made a rare foray to London's West End to see Steven Spielberg's film on the Holocaust, *Schindler's List*.

Her private office is reluctant to discuss the outing. But a sympathetic film buff reports: "Feeling as deeply as she does — partly because of her Jewish friends in Finchley — she was obviously very moved." Moved enough to join the others in the desperate search for clean handkerchiefs? "I wouldn't like to say. But just remember how she doggedly fought to get the War Crimes Bill through Parliament."

● *CLARIDGE'S restaurant closes its doors tonight to its ordinary customers for only the third time in its history. Previous occasions were royal requests, but tonight's exclusion honours a commoner. The grand eaterie will be restricted to "Pilgrims", the elite of London's Anglo-American community, as they say goodbye to the popular American Ambassador to the Court of St James, Raymond Seitz.*

Burning in his grave

FOLLOWING the success of Highgate Cemetery in luring visitors to see Karl Marx's grave, Golders Green Crematorium is launching a tourist drive. Tomorrow night sees its first concert, featuring works by composers who began their final eight-bar rest there.

The concert will include music by Ivor Novello and Edward German, and *Requiem* by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose father, William, was cremated at Golders Green. The choir, the Abbey Academy Ensemble, will also be giving a rousing rendition of Novello's *Keep the Home Fires Burning*.



Musical director Frances Brooke insists it is all in the best possible taste. "It's our little in-joke, but we have to do the song. It's the first piece that brought him fame."

Paddy's turn-off

THE LOCAL election campaign has got off to an unsavoury start in Cheltenham with brickbats being thrown between the Tories and Liberal Democrats. Strangely, the spat centres on an invitation to Paddy Ashdown to switch on a closed-circuit television system tomorrow in the town centre.

Robert Wilson, the Tory Mayor of Cheltenham, already incensed that he had not been invited, was appalled to learn that Ashdown was to perform the ceremony. "It's using a civic matter for blatant electioneering purposes," he says.

Nonsense, retort the ruling Lib Dems. "We had planned a formal ceremony at the end of May with the mayor, the chief constable and a celebrity," says Brian Cassin, chairman of the environment committee. "But since Paddy was going to be here, we thought we would ask him to see if it works." A frosty compromise appears to have been reached: Cassin switches on the lights tomorrow night, the mayor is invited to the ceremony — and Ashdown watches on.

American envoy shared CND view on British deterrent

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

As a rising officer in the US Navy, William Crowe studied the Royal Navy in the 1960s. He concluded that funds spent on Polaris by Britain could have been employed more profitably to fight its economic malaise

William Crowe, the former Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff nominated by President Clinton to be the next American Ambassador in London, once cast serious doubts on the value of Britain's nuclear deterrent.

His reservations were expressed in his PhD thesis, *Policy Roots of the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1963*, which he wrote in 1965 as a 40-year-old commander in the US Navy. The work was never published in book form, but the typescript can still be found on a lower shelf at the back of the Pentagon library.

Admiral Crowe's Senate confirmation looks assured, but must be completed fast if, as intended, he is to be in place for Mr Clinton's first official visit to Britain in early June. Ray Seitz, the present Ambassador, leaves in May. The nomination is partly a reward for the admiral's support for Mr Clinton during the 1992 presidential campaign, when the Republicans were attacking his Vietnam draft avoidance.

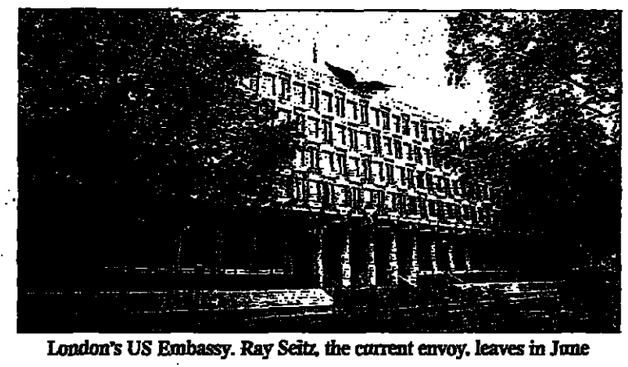
The admiral conducted his doctoral research while he lived in London for five months — an experience he thoroughly enjoyed as it was one of the most productive periods of his life. His hidebound, navy opinions were changing under an onslaught of intellectual analysis, and becoming more tolerant and liberal. He believed the ballistic missiles on the Royal Navy's four Polaris submarines were of marginal relevance. He argued that a country faced by such severe economic problems as Britain should be demanding more of a return on its investment of £300 million plus operating costs.

"The abandonment of nuclear weapons would release funds which could be profitably employed elsewhere," he wrote. It is odd to reflect that 28 years ago, as a middle-ranking officer with no inkling he would become America's top military commander, Admiral Crowe shared an opinion held by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, then at its height. The future admiral was a political fellow at Princeton and has admitted it was an intense period that challenged him to reassess his more ingrained and conventional navy views. He became more willing than many of his colleagues to question the status quo and to argue for alternatives. More than once, navy friends shook their heads sadly over his transformation into a liberal and feared that Commander Crowe was taking a gamble with his career.

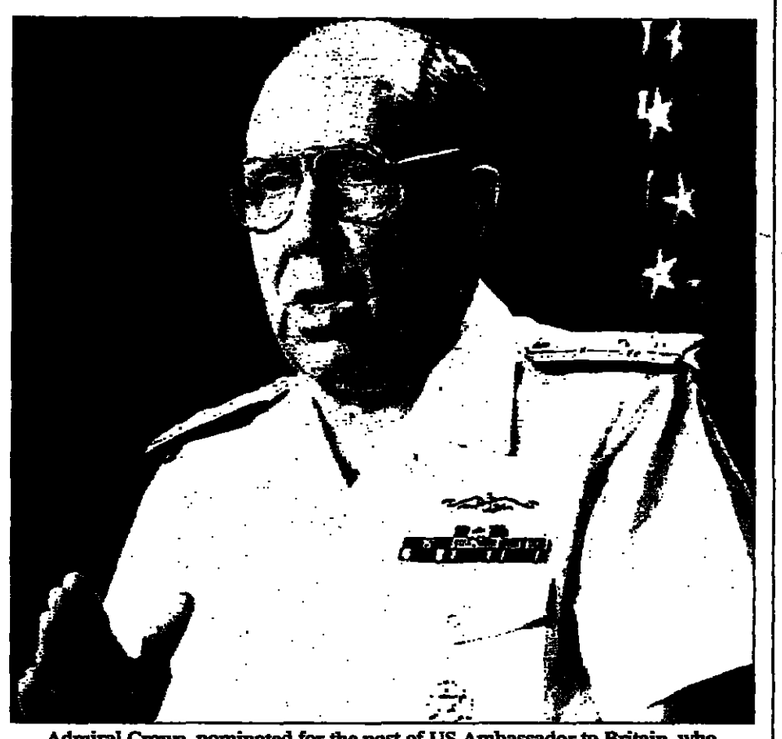
He interviewed more than 100 people, including former sea lords, naval officers, Admiralty civil servants and Lord Mountbatten. He received help from Chatham House and the Navy League and was made an honorary fellow of the Royal United Services Institution.

In his thesis, Commander Crowe traced how the British Government of 1960 was forced to cancel Blue Streak, the missile originally intended to replace RAF bombers for carrying nuclear warheads, and decided to buy Skybolt missiles from America. When Skybolt was also cancelled, President Kennedy offered Polaris to Harold Macmillan.

The entire Polaris force gave Britain an arsenal of 64 missiles, which Admiral Crowe agreed was a "respectable nuclear punch" but in terms of deterring the Soviet Union was "probably insignificant". He wrote: "It defies reason to suppose that the British would be willing to risk total extinction in return for the damage that 64 or less Polaris missiles could inflict on Soviet Russia."



London's US Embassy. Ray Seitz, the current envoy, leaves in June



Admiral Crowe, nominated for the post of US Ambassador to Britain, who wrote that Polaris was an inadequate deterrent against the Soviet Union

US prisoner sues over ice cream trauma

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S love of litigation has spread to its prisons where convicts increasingly spend their days (and taxpayers' money) suing in frivolous, time-consuming or bizarre civil rights cases.

Roy Cleninden, an inmate in a New York state jail, recently sued for $1 million (£675,000) in compensation because warders refused to let him put an ice cream in the prison fridge, which then melted, causing Cleninden deep unhappiness and psychological trauma. Another prisoner, Reginald Troy, claimed his constitutional rights were infringed when he developed an ulcer and jail authorities failed to provide him with such digestible delicacies as oysters and veal.

Federal and state officials say they are becoming swamped by prisoners' legal actions, even though 97 per cent of them are dismissed before trial. According to *The New York Times*, the number of proceedings started by prisoners has risen from a few hundred in the 1960s to 33,000 last year. In that period, the jail population has risen from 212,000 to almost a million.

Democrats' errors risk hearing on Whitewater

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THROUGH a series of stumbles, Democrats in the House of Representatives managed to push themselves into a corner yesterday when they virtually committed themselves to a full Whitewater hearing that could prove perilous for President Clinton.

Jim Leach, a Republican, was threatening to cross-examine witnesses about the affair at a routine banking committee hearing tomorrow. Feeling outsmarted, Henry Gonzalez, the committee's abrasive Democrat chairman, cancelled the hearing, saying the Republicans were trying to turn it into "a witch-hunt in a circus ring". Unfortunately for him, however, cancelling the hearing began to look like an attempted cover-up.

Since concealment ranks below candour in the present mood of Congress, the Democrat leaders felt forced to make a surprising U-turn and to consider a full hearing, possibly as early as next month. Thomas Foley, the House Speaker and Democratic leader, said he and the House Republican leader had agreed to hold a vote on whether a hearing should take place.

British guerrilla cheers rebel vote

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN SAN SALVADOR

MICHAEL Lanchin, 31, cannot vote in El Salvador because he is British, but the former lawyer from Amersham, Buckinghamshire, had a special interest in last Sunday's general election, the first since the end of the war.

Mr Lanchin — known to friends by his nom de guerre, "Adam Rivas" — was probably the only Englishman to join the left-wing Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the guerrilla army that fought El Salvador's military for 12 years before coming down from the mountains and launching itself as a political party.

On Sunday after ending his nightshift at the office of a local radio station, he took his wife Sylvia, also a former FMLN guerrilla, to the polling station where she, like thousands of her former comrades in arms, voted for the first time. "She's hoping for a change," said Mr Lanchin. It looks as though that is what she got. With votes still being counted yesterday, the FMLN had won 25 per cent of the poll, enough to force the ruling Arena party into a run-off next month.

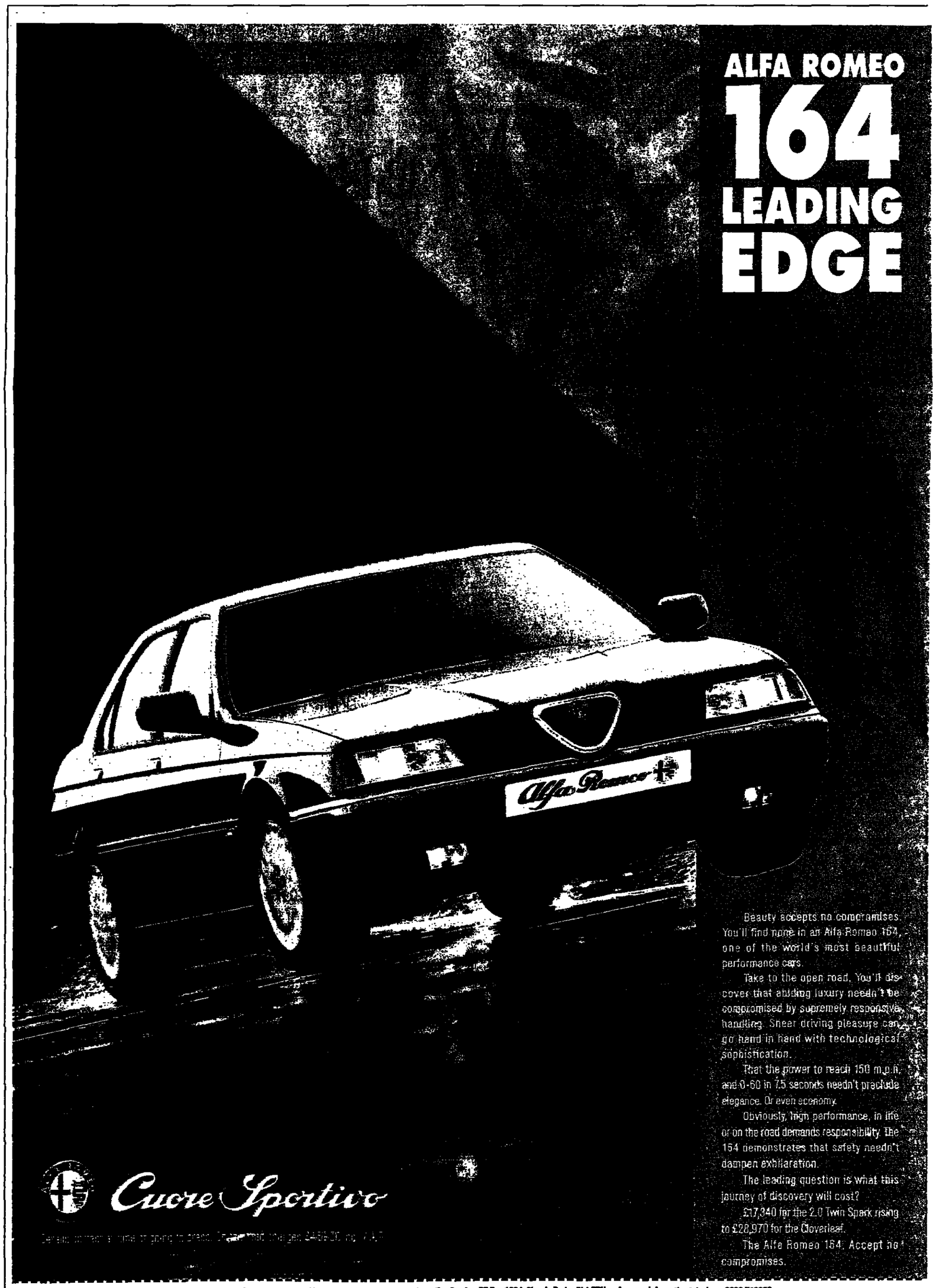
For other FMLN voters in rural areas, election fraud denied them the chance to cast their ballot. In the remote mountain village of Arcatao in the heart of Chalatenango province, a guerrilla stronghold during the war where Mr Lanchin operated, the Electoral Tribunal refused to set up polling booths, arguing that it was an abandoned "ghost town". The population, mainly former FMLN guerrillas and their families, made the five-hour bus ride to San Salvador last Friday to state their case. On Saturday night the tribunal relented under pressure from United Nations observers — a small, but important victory for Salvadorean democracy.

Many Salvadorean radio listeners received news of the election results through the voice of Mr Lanchin, reporting for the former guerrilla radio station, Farabundo Marti, now known as "FF". Mr Lanchin has been a reporter there since 1992 when the station moved its offices and transmitter from clandestine underground "studios" in the mountains. Almost by accident he was recruited by the FMLN in Nicaragua in 1990 where he went to work as a coffee picker in 1986, leaving his job as a social services legal adviser in Birmingham.

He started working secretly for the FMLN translating news stories in Managua for the guerrillas. In 1990 he made his way secretly to the guerrilla camps where he was given military instruction and joined a mobile radio unit which was constantly on the move, carrying the equipment to avoid detection by the army.



Lanchin: lawyer turned rebel broadcaster



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Aides scotch health rumours

Paper alleges plot to topple Yeltsin

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

KREMLIN sources moved quickly yesterday to counter rumours that President Yeltsin is seriously ill. In a spate of reassurances, officials insisted that his unscheduled break on the Black Sea coast was a working holiday, not a retreat from the burdens of office.

Sergei Filatov, head of the President's office, accused opponents of running a campaign of rumour to undermine the Russian leader and his attempt to achieve a reconciliation with hostile forces in parliament. "It is characteristic that this political intrigue was started after the President talked about strengthening the state and put forward his memorandum about civic accord," Mr Filatov said.

He added that opposition forces were seeking to take advantage of Mr Yeltsin's absence, "since too many people can't wait to occupy the post of President".

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister and one of those who seems to be preparing himself for the role of President, unexpectedly travelled to Mr Yeltsin's dacha in Sochi at the weekend, feeding rumours of a leadership crisis. Yesterday, however, he described reports that Mr Yeltsin was unwell as "insulting". He nevertheless declined to say why he had found it necessary to visit the President while he is on holiday or to say what he had discussed with him.



Yeltsin: visited at dacha by prime minister

The Russian leader's team is anxious to quash comparison between Mr Yeltsin's retreat to his dacha at a time when he is under heavy political pressure with Mikhail Gorbachev's ill-fated vacation in the Crimea in August 1991, during which hardliners mounted a coup against him.

Yesterday the front page of *Komsomolskaya Pravda* carried an article entitled "Does March resemble August?" which highlighted the similiarities between Mr Yeltsin's present and Mr Gorbachev's past plight. The newspaper also published a report detailing alleged plans by a group of senior officials to remove Mr Yeltsin. It said they included Oleg Soskovets, the First Deputy Prime Minister, and Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, whose opposition to privatisation has grown in recent months.



Aleksandr Rutskoi, Russia's former vice-president, gesturing at a display in a machinery exhibition in Moscow yesterday. Mr Rutskoi, who was granted an amnesty for his role in an uprising against President Yeltsin, dismissed the President's call for a "civic accord" in Russia. He described rumours of an imminent coup in the Russian capital as a "provocation" but said he had no evidence linking them to the President's camp. "It's all strongly over-dramatised to divert people's attention [from a bad economic situation]," Mr Rutskoi said. The rumours, widely reported in newspapers, surfaced after Mr Yeltsin left Moscow for the Black Sea resort of Sochi on holiday last week. His aides said he had decided to take a break from Moscow routine to concentrate on broad policy, including his proposals for an accord to regulate the conduct of key parties. *(Reuter)*



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Kazakhstan proposes security conference

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan yesterday unveiled details of a proposal for an Asian security conference, a day after depositing with John Major his country's instruments of ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Speaking on the final working day of a visit to Britain, the leader of the largest former Soviet Central Asian republic said the proposed conference, modelled on the 1975 Helsinki accords, would attempt to set up new confidence-building measures at a time of rising tensions in Asia.

He said 27 nations had shown interest and Kazakhstan was going ahead with a preparatory conference to be attended by deputy foreign ministers. Two meetings of experts had been held, and preparations were under way for a summit of heads of state.

Among those invited are all the former Soviet republics of Central Asia, China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, North Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Russia. He hoped that Britain and other European nations could also be associated with the conference, and said Mr Major had responded positively.

Kazakhstan is one of the world's only nuclear powers voluntarily to give up its weapons, having scrapped 1,100 warheads. Britain, together with Russia and America, now has a formal role in guaranteeing the country's non-nuclear status. Much of Mr Nazarbayev's visit here has been taken up with the rapidly expanding business links. New agreements were signed in Downing Street on double taxation, the protection of Western investments, economic co-operation, education and science. The Kazakh government is on the brink of signing a huge contract with British Gas.



Leading article, page 19

NEWS IN BRIEF

Women in Algeria vent wrath

Algiers: Women's groups led tens of thousands at a rally yesterday to vent their anger at political assassinations and threats against unveiled women in a two-year-old Muslim fundamentalist insurgency. The rally was held outside the School of Fine Arts and headed by the wife of the school's director, who along with their son, 22, was assassinated inside the building. *(AP)*

Kurds protest

Frankfurt: Three Kurdish demonstrators set themselves on fire with petrol during violent blockades of highways that snarled traffic across Germany. Two were seriously injured. *(AP)*

Dam hostages

Paramaribo, Surinam: About 100 guerrillas holding 30 hostages after storming a hydroelectric dam in the Surinam jungle demanded the government's resignation and mined the area.

Jordan review

London: Amnesty International has urged Jordan to cut down on the increasing use of the death penalty and said that it would examine the country's human rights record. *(Reuter)*

'Killer' freed

Tokyo: A court cleared a man convicted of a 1946 murder, ending a long-running legal wrangle stemming from accusations that police coerced a confession. He served seven years in jail. *(Reuter)*

Life for rapist

Harare: A court here jailed for life a Zimbabwean man with two wives for raping a girl aged eight when he knew he was HIV-positive and infected the girl with the virus. *(AFP)*

Equal rites

Hong Kong: Hundreds of male villagers from the rural areas of the New Territories fought police and women's groups over a plan to give rural women equal inheritance rights. *(Reuter)*

Gold choker

Bucharest: A former convict nearly choked to death on stolen gold necklaces he swallowed to avoid being caught by police. He is in hospital where doctors may operate to recover them. *(Reuter)*

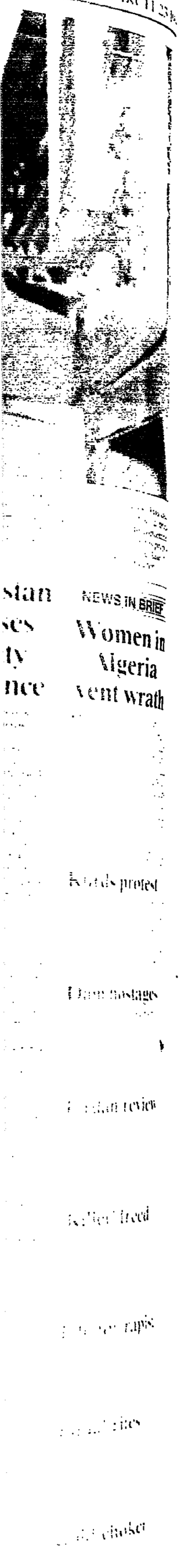
Police fire tear gas at French students

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN LYONS

THOUSANDS of students staged anti-government demonstrations across France yesterday after ministers insisted they were going ahead with a plan to cut the minimum wage for young people.

For the second day in succession, secondary-school pupils in Lyons threw stones at the police, who retaliated with tear gas and baton charges. Other groups of youths smashed shop windows and vandalised cars, including a police vehicle. A jeweller's shop was looted. Earlier in the day 3,000 students had marched through the city without incident, watched by 1,200 riot and plainclothes police. The trouble began when police tear-gassed young people assembled in a square and baton-charged them.

In Saint-Etienne, near by, 1,500 students staged a sit-in and thousands demonstrated in western France, notably in Lorient, Brittany, where 3,000 turned out. In the south, protesters marched at Marseilles, Montpellier and Nimes.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Women in Algeria vent wrath

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...Indian review

...Nobel bread

...new rapist

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ALL OF US,
AT EURO DISNEYLAND,
ARE HAPPY
TO ANNOUNCE...

ANC cold-shoulders its World Bank and IMF suitors



Camdessus: IMF looking to reopen ties after 12 years

*Ambitious development plans expected of the ANC risk being sunk by unrealistic economic policies and deep suspicion of international lending agencies, **R.W.Johnson** writes*

WILL a new ANC-led South African government shatter all expectations by refusing the embrace of the World Bank and the IMF?

Over the past four years teams of economists from both bodies have made frequent visits to South Africa and commissioned studies on various aspects of the economy. The presumption has become general that South Africa's post-election development is likely to be assisted by the bank and the fund, after the apartheid-era freeze which has lasted 12 years in the case of the IMF, whose chairman is Jean-Michel Camdessus, and 27 years in the case of the World Bank.

Confidence that these institutions would again become involved has been behind the recent speculative surge of foreign funds into the Johannesburg stock market. The first hint that the ANC might be thinking along different lines came with the publication of its Reconstruction and Development Programme, which committed it to maintaining the debt burden at its present 6 per cent of GDP. In fact, the modest level of South Africa's foreign debt has been achieved only by the most draconian squeeze by successive governments since 1985. The result was the halving of the country's debt-to-export ratio to less than 70 per cent. The IMF records only four other developing countries (all of them fast-growing "Asian tiger" economies) with a lower ratio than this. Inflation is down to 8.9 per cent.

Given the ANC's ambitious spending plans — vast housing and education increases, along with affordable health and even "affordable telephones" for all — it had been widely assumed that large-scale loan finance would be necessary, with the World Bank and the IMF at the head of the lending list. But if the ANC really wants to stick to a "no extra borrowing" policy there will be no relationship with either. In fact, the ANC's programme says that it will use foreign funding only for projects capable of earning foreign exchange, which seems to rule out its social programmes.

What this is really about is the strength of the Communist Party network within the ANC, and the tendency of many within the ANC to see the World Bank and the IMF as part of a world capitalist conspiracy. There is serious talk in such circles of attempting "socialism" and how it may be necessary to mount mass action against "unwarranted Fund and Bank programmes". There is recrimination about the secretive way in which the $850 million (£560 million) IMF drought relief loan was agreed and accusations that ANC advisers who were party to recent debt renegotiation were fooled by the banks. The great fear is that South Africa will, like so many other African countries, be forced to undergo an IMF "stabilisation" diet or a World Bank "structural adjustment plan". No heed is paid to the fact that this fate only occurs to those who do not repay loans.

IMF economists believe the ANC is living in fairyland. They point out that South Africa's private domestic savings are generating only 13 per cent of the GDP available for investment — barely enough to cover depreciation and quite inadequate to produce growth, let alone the ANC's new spending programmes. However, this week brought news that Ben Turok, the ANC's most extreme opponent of the bank and the IMF, is to be the economic supremo of the Pretoria-Johannesburg region, containing the bulk of the country's mineral wealth. Mr Turok, 66, is a rich white who argues that the World Bank and the IMF seek to "install bourgeois democracy and subordinate the Third World in a system of so-called free markets".

Meanwhile Trevor Manuel, the ANC's shadow Finance Minister, has announced that the ANC is confident that its plans can be paid for out of existing resources. International agencies, he said, "are begging to lend to the country, but we're saying to them, wait a bit, not yet." However, foreign reserves are down to $600 million — cover for less than three weeks' imports.

For the moment the markets are taking the view that Mr Turok and Mr Manuel cannot be serious, for that would abort the ANC's spending plans, cause a colossal crash on the stock market and see new records set for capital flight.

Pyongyang claims US missile move brings war nearer

FROM BRUCE CHEESMAN IN SEOUL AND JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

NORTH Korea said yesterday that President Clinton's decision to deploy Patriot anti-missile systems in South Korea could lead to war.

"This is a provocative step to lead the situation to extremes by further aggravating tensions on the Korean peninsula," the BBC quoted North Korean radio as saying. "The order by Clinton to deploy Patriot missiles in South Korea is a grave threat to us. This clearly shows that the United States is leading the Korean peninsula to the situation of war," the radio added.

The Korean broadcast said America had broken up scheduled US-North Korea talks by strengthening its "military threat" to the North and putting pressure on Pyongyang by reviving plans for the Team Spirit 1994 joint military exercises with South Korea.

With regional tensions rising, particularly over North Korea's refusal to allow international inspection of its nuclear sites, President Kim Young Sam of South Korea tomorrow begins a trip to China and Japan to drum up support for Seoul's tough new line towards North Korea. President Kim, who arrives in Tokyo tomorrow, is expected to adopt an aggressive posture in asking Morihiro Hosokawa, the Japanese Prime Minister, to help to cut off aid, estimated at up to $800 million (£540 million) a year, between pro-North Korean sympathisers in Japan and Pyongyang. There seems little doubt that he will receive a promise of support from Mr Hosokawa in imposing sanctions.

Indeed, responding to growing international concerns, the Japanese government is already considering possible punitive measures against Pyongyang. Such measures, according to Japanese government officials last night, could include suspending all trade with North Korea, stopping ships and aircraft from leaving for the country, and banning all cash remittances from North Korean residents in Japan. Such remittances are among North Korea's most important sources of foreign exchange.

When he arrives in Peking on Saturday to meet Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Kim will be all smiles in trying to enlist Chinese aid, since Peking has repeatedly condemned any move by the United Nations Security Council to impose sanctions against Pyongyang.

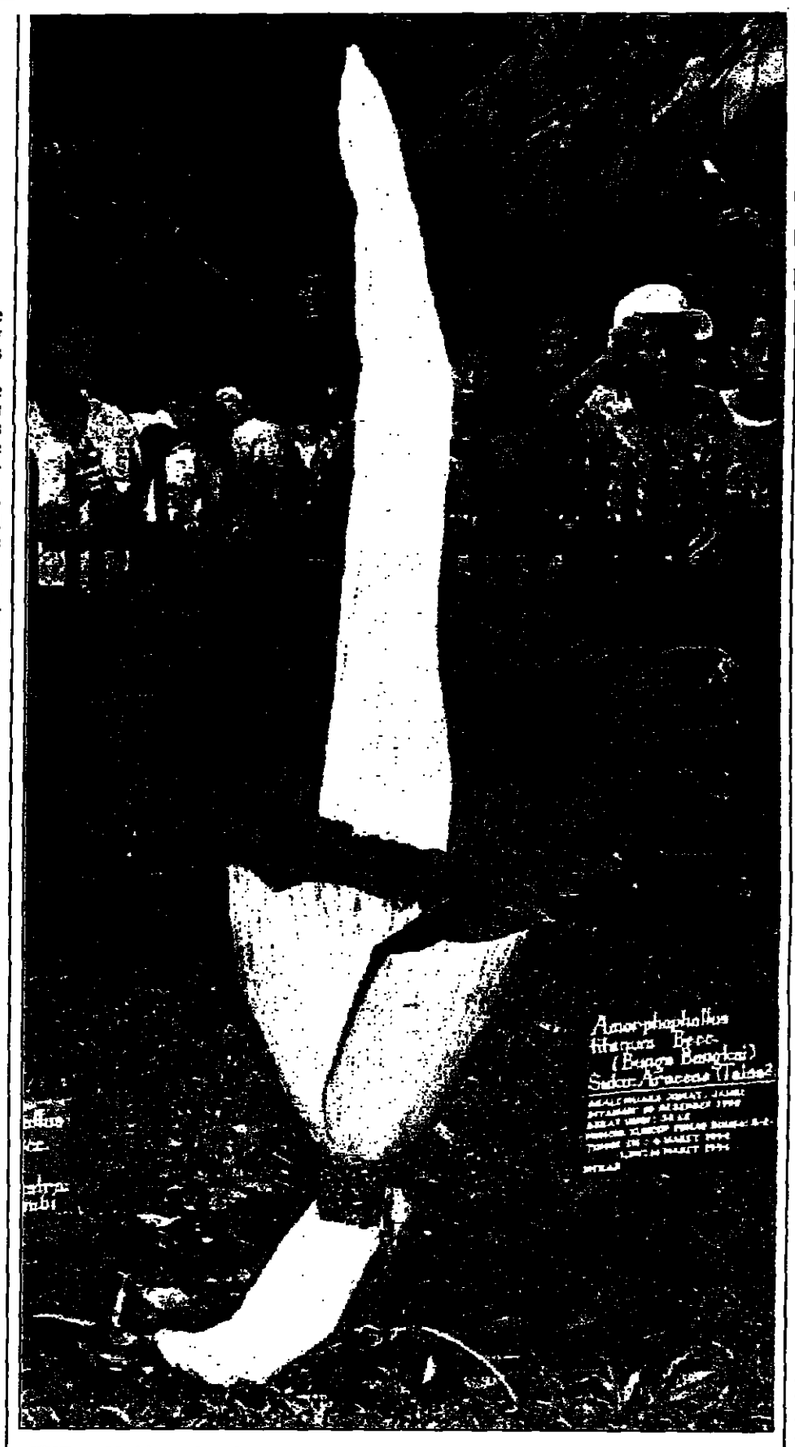
China last night again gave a warning that pressure on its North Korean ally over its nuclear intentions could serve only to complicate the situation and add to tensions. "China is a signatory of the non-proliferation treaty and does not support or encourage nuclear proliferation," Mr Li said at a press conference in Peking.

"As far as the question of inspection of nuclear sites is concerned, China has all along said a negotiated settlement is best; applying pressure will not help towards a settlement. China is not for pressure," he added.

If the matter of nuclear inspection were taken to the UN Security Council for further action, he said, China's delegate would explain this "in a comprehensive way. Our hope is that other members of the UN will understand the position of the Chinese side. If pressure is applied, that can only complicate the issue and add to tensions that will be detrimental to peace and security in the region."

Diplomats said Mr Li seemed to be indicating that China would abstain rather than veto any Security Council resolution calling for full inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency. There was no confirmation of this from the Chinese side.

Seoul: North Korea has stockpiled enough high-powered chemical weapons to wipe out the population of the South, Lee Choong Kuk, a defector, said at a press conference here yesterday. Mr Lee, whom the authorities identified as belonging to a biological and chemicals unit near Pyongyang, defected to South Korea on Friday through an unspecified third nation. *(AFP)*



THE world's biggest but also smelliest flower has burst into bloom in Indonesia's botanical gardens in West Java. *Amorphophallus titanum* spontaneously blooms once every four or five years to the delight of botanists but its strong, foul-smelling, odour deters most visitors from venturing too near. The smell, redolent of putrefying meat, is designed to lure pollinating insects — primarily beetles — inside. The "corpse plant", as it is known locally, can grow more than 4ft high and a yard wide. Its petals only last four to five days. Native to Sumatra, the flower develops from a corm weighing up to 7st.

Buthelezi trades allegations in dirty tricks row

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN PRETORIA

AS NELSON Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi met in Johannesburg yesterday to finalise arrangements for international mediation on the constitutional issues still dividing them, the Zulu leader's Inkatha was bitterly complaining about an alleged African National Congress plot to create an ungovernable situation in his KwaZulu homeland, leading to a military takeover there.

The Transitional Executive Council (TEC) also heard a horror story of the activity of hit squads in Natal, particularly KwaZulu. "The number of deaths caused by these hit squads is unquantifiable," said the report of a task group set up by the TEC. "But it would represent a significant proportion of those who have died in political violence."

The council, which is charged with ensuring that no unfair political advantage is gained by any side during the run-up to next month's multi-racial democratic election, set up the task force at the end of last year. It consists of two lawyers, Howard Varney and Professor Nicholas Haysom, and Colonel Ivor Human, a senior detective with the murder squad.

Their reports said that several hit squads are operating, some of which include members of the KwaZulu police (KZP). "Some of these hit-squad activities can be specifically associated with persons who underwent training at the Caprivi strip in 1986 and who now operate mostly within the KZP," the report said.

In the Caprivi strip, a remote area of Namibia jutting across the north of Botswana, the South African army trained KwaZulu police in what they called "VIP protection" but which is now acknowledged to have included weapon-training with AK47s, Uzi sub-machineguns, rifles, rocket-launchers, and mortars. It included urban warfare, attacking buildings with grenades, interrogation and torture techniques, hiding arms caches, making booby traps, kidnapping and ambushing, and dozens of other techniques that are only remotely connected with the duties of a bodyguard. The report recommended that all Caprivi trainees should be immediately relieved of all policing duties, and concentrated in one location in the run-up to the election. Although the task group names no names, it states unequivocally that "office bearers of the Inkatha Freedom Party and employees of a certain government department" are implicated in the hit squad activity.

Inkatha has sent to Mr Justice Richard Goldstone, head of the enquiry into violence and intimidation, a document "obtained by an informant" revealing "sinister ANC/SACP (Communist Party) plans secretly to orchestrate emerging instability in KwaZulu, leading to TEC and military intervention". It claims that 2,000 members of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC, are deployed in Natal, with several thousand "informally trained" members of self-defence units, and even some members of the Transkei defence force. It says that, as in Bophuthatswana, the ANC is encouraging civil servants to worry about their future and their pensions.



Buthelezi: ANC plan "to destabilise KwaZulu"

☐ **Johannesburg:** All prisoners will be allowed to vote in the election, the TEC has decided. The move reverses rules that had allowed only inmates awaiting trial or serving minor sentences to vote. Since Friday, prisoners protesting about their exclusion have run amok in jails. *(AP)*

Chinese face sanctions over tiger slaughter for medicines

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

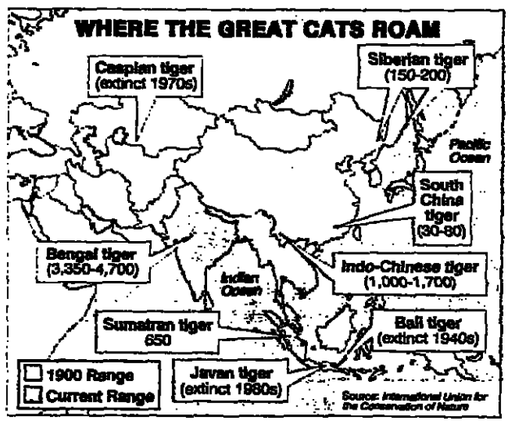
CHINA is facing tough trade sanctions over its failure to protect the tiger, one of the world's most endangered animals.

Evidence presented to the 121-nation Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in Geneva yesterday suggests that Peking is continuing to flout international rules by supporting state-run factories processing tiger bones into medicines.

The evidence is based on undercover investigations by members of the Tiger Trust at Harbin, northeast China. It could be the final proof needed to provoke trade sanctions. President Clinton warned Peking last year that the so-called Pelly amendment would be invoked if it failed to crack down on the illegal trade in the body parts of tigers. The amendment covers trade sanctions on flora, fauna, fisheries and agricultural products.

The filmed evidence from the Tiger Trust, a wildlife charity based at Newmarket, Suffolk, allegedly shows tiger bone being processed into medicinal sticking plasters at one of 30 state-run factories in northern China. The factory produces 1.5 million plasters a day. They are purported to heal cuts and cure rheumatism. Tiger penises and other parts of the animal are reputed to cure everything from impotence to dysentery.

Even the most optimistic assessments fear the tiger will be gone from the wild soon. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature at Gland, Switzerland, predicts extinction in the wild by the turn of the century unless action is taken. Numbers have fallen by 95 per cent this century.



Rabbi tells settlers to commit suicide if evicted

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S former Chief Rabbi proposed yesterday that Jewish settlers in Hebron should commit mass suicide if the government tries to evict them.

At the same time, Palestinian survivors told the Israeli enquiry into last month's mosque massacre in Hebron that a second gunman joined Barukh Goldstein, the settler until now believed to have been solely responsible for the carnage in which 29 Palestinians were shot dead during prayers.

Rabbi Shlomo Goren, referring to suggestions by Cabinet ministers that Jewish settlers should be removed from the heart of Hebron, urged the 400 or so Jews there not to submit to being removed. "They must do what was done in Massada," he said, referring to the besieged Jews who committed mass suicide rather than surrender to Roman legions in AD73. "We are not far from the moment when this can happen," he added.

Rabbi Goren's statement comes amid a deepening split among religious leaders over attitudes to Yitzhak Rabin's government and the sanctity of Arab life in the wake of the Hebron massacre. Rabbi Yehuda Amital, a liberal who heads a seminary at a settlement south of Bethlehem, began weeping during a live radio interview yesterday when asked about a religious ruling by a colleague from Kiryat Arba, near Hebron, that explicitly sanctioned attacks on innocent Arab civilians. "Those who have studied the holy ethics know that there is no love of Israel without loving the whole of creation," he said.

Israel television reported that the ruling — "there are no restrictions regarding innocents" — was issued in December after two settlers, Mordechai and Shalom Lapid, were killed by Palestinians. It came to light during a visit to Kiryat Arba by National Religious Party MPs.

At the massacre enquiry, Muhammad Jaabari, 29, a Palestinian witness, said: "There was certainly another source of fire in the prayer hall, I'm sure of it. When he [Goldstein] changed magazines, the shooting continued from another source." His evidence was at loggerheads with the army's version, which insists that only Goldstein opened fire in the mosque.

The appearance of the Palestinians, including a partly deaf man, two men who could not read documents because they are illiterate, and the wounded father of a 20-year-old killed in the mosque brought human faces to the victims of the carnage that has shaken peace efforts and raised troubling questions about army and settler attitudes towards Arabs.

The deliberations paused for a while yesterday when Khamis Abed, 34, began weeping as he recalled trying to flee during the shooting.

